BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO.67 BENGALURU | THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 42 | PRICE ₹6**

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 16 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

CELEBRATING UGADI, GUDI PADWA, NAVRATRI, AND CHETI CHAND

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

The spotlight was on **Virat Kohli as he worked out in the nets in Royal Challengers Bengaluru's first training session at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru** on Wednesday **P 19**

India's men's and women's teams face a tough 2026 Thomas and Uber Cup, drawn with top seeds China; but as eighth seeds and 2022 champions, Indian men are strong contenders to secure a quarterfinals spot from Group A, **P 18**

A Chinese varsity has urged students to **"enjoy the flowers and fall in love"** during their mid-term break, an unusual message in a system focused on academic success, as authorities aim to boost marriages and domestic spending

Fugitive **Nirav Modi appeared via video link from Pentonville Prison in London** as he sought to reopen his UK extradition case, arguing that he faces a real risk of torture if sent to India, **P 8**

HOLIDAY NOTICE

Our offices are closed today for Ugadi. There will be no edition on Friday, March 20, 2026. For latest news and updates, visit **www.timesofindia.com**

3 die in Raipur hosp septic tank

Three sanitation workers died after allegedly inhaling toxic gas while cleaning a septic tank at a private hospital in Raipur on Tuesday night, triggering protests by their relatives against the management and contractor for not providing safety gear. The hospital management has announced a compensation of Rs 30 lakh each to the families of the deceased. **P 12**

Report: India's child mortality down 71%

India's under-five mortality rate has declined from 127 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 27 in 2024, marking a sharp improvement in child survival, says a 2025 UN report. Since 2000, the rate has fallen from 92 to 26.6, a decline of 71%. **P 8**

Woman gets bail after 'Jai Bangla'

Karnataka HC granted bail on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh to the woman held in Bengaluru for shouting "Jai Bangla" instead of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" during a demolition drive on Jan 11. "Jai Bangla" was often associated with the Bangladesh freedom movement in the 1970s. **P 3**

Sara will need affidavit to visit Badri, Kedar

Non-Hindu visitors to Badrinath and Kedarnath, like popular Bollywood actor Sara Ali Khan, will now have to submit an affidavit "affirming their faith in Sanatan Dharma". **P 8**

Pak long-range missiles could target US: Intel chief Gabbard

Omits Mention Of Stalled Iran Uranium Enrichment

Washington: US intelligence chief Tulsi Gabbard told lawmakers on Wednesday that Pakistan's long-range ballistic missile development could include missiles capable of targeting the US.

She sent mixed messages on Iran: her written testimony said Iran's uranium enrichment programme had been "obliterated" in strikes last year — a conclusion that would have undercut claims that Tehran posed an imminent threat. She told senators "Iran was trying to recover from attacks on its nuclear facilities". On Hormuz, she said "Iran always threatened to leverage their control over the Strait." AGENCIES

▶Iran govt degraded, P 14

▶China and Russia, P 14

HUGE IRANIAN GAS FIELD IS STRUCK

- Strikes on Pars gas field, Iranian sector of **world's largest natural gas deposit**, which Iran shares with Qatar
- **Iran hits Saudi province** with oil fields, **threatens to ratchet up strikes** against oil and gas infra **in Qatar and UAE**
- Israel steps up **airstrikes on Beirut, killing at least 10.**

Photo: AP

Two people were killed near Tel Aviv in Iranian retaliatory attacks

Lebanon's health ministry says 968 have died since March 2

7 tankers bound for China take India turn

A tanker carrying Russian crude, which was originally headed for China's Rizhao port, has turned towards India, Bloomberg reports. It is likely to dock at New Mangalore Port on Saturday. What made it change course was unclear, with govt saying it was "unaware". **P 6**

PM speaks to Kuwait prince on Strait

PM Modi spoke Wednesday to Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, his second call since the strikes began, condemning the Iranian attacks on Kuwait and underlining the significance of safe navigation through the Strait of Hormuz. **P 6**

Israel kills Iran intel minister in airstrike

Esmaeil Khatib, the Iranian intelligence minister, became the country's latest high-ranking official to be targeted in the US-Israeli military campaign. Israel's military said on Wednesday that it had killed Khatib in an overnight airstrike. The Iranian president, Masoud Pezeshkian, confirmed the killing in a social media post later in the day, calling it "a cowardly assassination.".

Khatib is the latest top Iranian official to be killed since US and Israel launched their attack last month. An airstrike killed supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on the first day of the war. AGENCIES

▶Cluster warheads, P 14

Row over Nora Fatehi song reaches Parl; govt says it's banned

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/Bengaluru: A row over alleged vulgarity in the Hindi version of a song from the upcoming Kannada film 'KD: The Devil' spilled into Parliament on Wednesday, even as protests and demands for action gathered pace in Karnataka.

During Question Hour in the Lok Sabha, Samajwadi Party MP Anand Bhadoria flagged the "harmful impact of unchecked content" on OTT platforms and social media. Union information and broadcasting minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the song had already been banned. "The framers of the Constitution placed certain reasonable restrictions, and we should function within those limits. Freedom of speech cannot be absolute; it has to be in the context of society and culture," the minister said.

If offended by lyrics, forgive me: Film dir

Kannada film director Prem, who penned the original Kannada lyrics for the song which was translated into Hindi as 'Sarke Chunar Teri Sarke', said: "Nobody writes to hurt people's sentiments. I wrote the song with the concept of a bottle and pickle in mind and saved it for the end as a way to create curiosity in the lyrics. If you are hurt or offended, please forgive me."

The controversy centres on the smutty track 'Sarse Ninna Serage Sarse', written by Kannada director Prem. He has since apologised and offered to rework the song. Abdul Raqeem translated the song into Hindi as 'Sarke Chunar Teri Sarke'.

▶Lyrics provoke, P 12

HDFC Bank chairman quits in sudden move

In a development that could raise fresh questions over governance, Atanu Chakrabortyresigned Wednesday as the non-executive chairman of HDFC Bank with immediate effect, citing concerns over "internal practices". The RBI has approved appointment of Keki Mistry as interim part-time chairman for three months, effective March 19, the bank said in a regulatory filing. **P 15**

Govt: 60% flight seat selection must be free

Govt directed DGCA on Wednesday to offer at least 60% seats "on any flight" without any selection charge. Flyers on the same PNR will need to be seated together. How this is implemented remains to be seen as 40% of seats being available for pre-booking will mean guaranteeing flyers on same PNR sitting together will be difficult, if not impossible, airline executives said. **P 6**

Cabinet nod for Guj UCC, live-in registration must

Gujarat Uniform Civil Code 2026 Bill that got the state cabinet's nod Wednesday makes it obligatory for live-in partners to register with the district registrar and formally notify when their relationship ends.

A child born out of such a relationship shall be legitimate and a woman deserted by her live-in partner will be entitled to claim maintenance, the bill says. **P 8**

Revolutionary, mercenary, spy: US terror suspect has a long resumé

Rajshekhar Jha, Arvind Chauhan & Tamaghna Banerjee | TNN

Mercenary. Terrorism suspect. Spy. Documentary filmmaker. Security analyst. Pro-democracy revolutionary. Self-styled American freedom fighter who fought in Libya's 2011 war against Muammar Gaddafi. A resumé built in war. Matthew Aaron VanDyke, 46, built a life that blurred every line. Now that life sits under lock and key in India.

In NIA custody after a last-minute airport interception in Kolkata this month, the Baltimore-born adventurer faces terrorism-related allegations tied to cross-border movement, drone warfare training, and suspected links with armed groups fighting the junta in Myanmar.

His journey into conflict began as a camera story. It did not stay that way.

VanDyke first travelled to Libya as a filmmaker during the Arab Spring. He soon joined rebel fighters battling Gaddafi's forces. Though captured and jailed, he made a lucky escape during the fall of Tripoli.

▶Trained in Myanmar, P 12

WAS IN LIBYA JAIL

- VanDyke once admitted **advising rebel factions in Syria** on tactics and weapons
- He has a **master's degree in security studies** with West Asia focus from Georgetown
- Claims to train **communities fighting terrorism and authoritarian regimes** through his org SOLI, which he insists operates without govt backing

Blaze from EV charger explosion kills 8 in Indore

Eight people, including four of a Bihar businessman's family, died early Wednesday in a fire at a three-storey house in Indore. The blaze, caused by a short circuit in an electric-vehicle charger, spread rapidly. The EV's battery exploded, followed by fuel tanks of scooters parked nearby catching fire. A power failure disabled the electronic locks, trapping residents inside, **report Sagar Choukse & Sheezan Nezam.** Fire engines couldn't enter the lanes and a 45-minute delay in securing water made the situation worse. **P 12**

In SC, TN challenges 'industry' tag for temples

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Commissioner Wednesday questioned the expansive definition of 'industry' settled by Supreme Court in 1978 , saying how it can cover temples when most of them are maintained from the surplus money generated from donations received by a few of them.

The board told a nine-judge bench led by CJI Surya Kant that the nature of activities carried out in a temple has nothing to do with industrial activity or disputes covered under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Very unusual, SC on Mamata's overreach

Referring to allegations that Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee had barged into a premises of political consultancy I-PAC during an ED raid, the SC on Wednesday termed it very unusual and not a happy situation. The court sought a remedy to prevent it from repeating in future. **P 11**

▶Books & prasadam, P 11

Flipkart
motorola
Windows 11
moto book
built for
performance.
designed for
envy.
Your life, simplified with Windows 11
powered by intel
motorola laptop
Pantone
bronze green
Pantone
wedgewood
14" (35.56cm) 2.8K
OLED Display
1.4kg
light weight
supports
smart connect
Buy moto book 60 starting ₹49,990*
Avail up to 12 months No Cost EMI
intel
CORE
ULTRA
intel
CORE
*T&C Apply. Price Incl. Bank Offer
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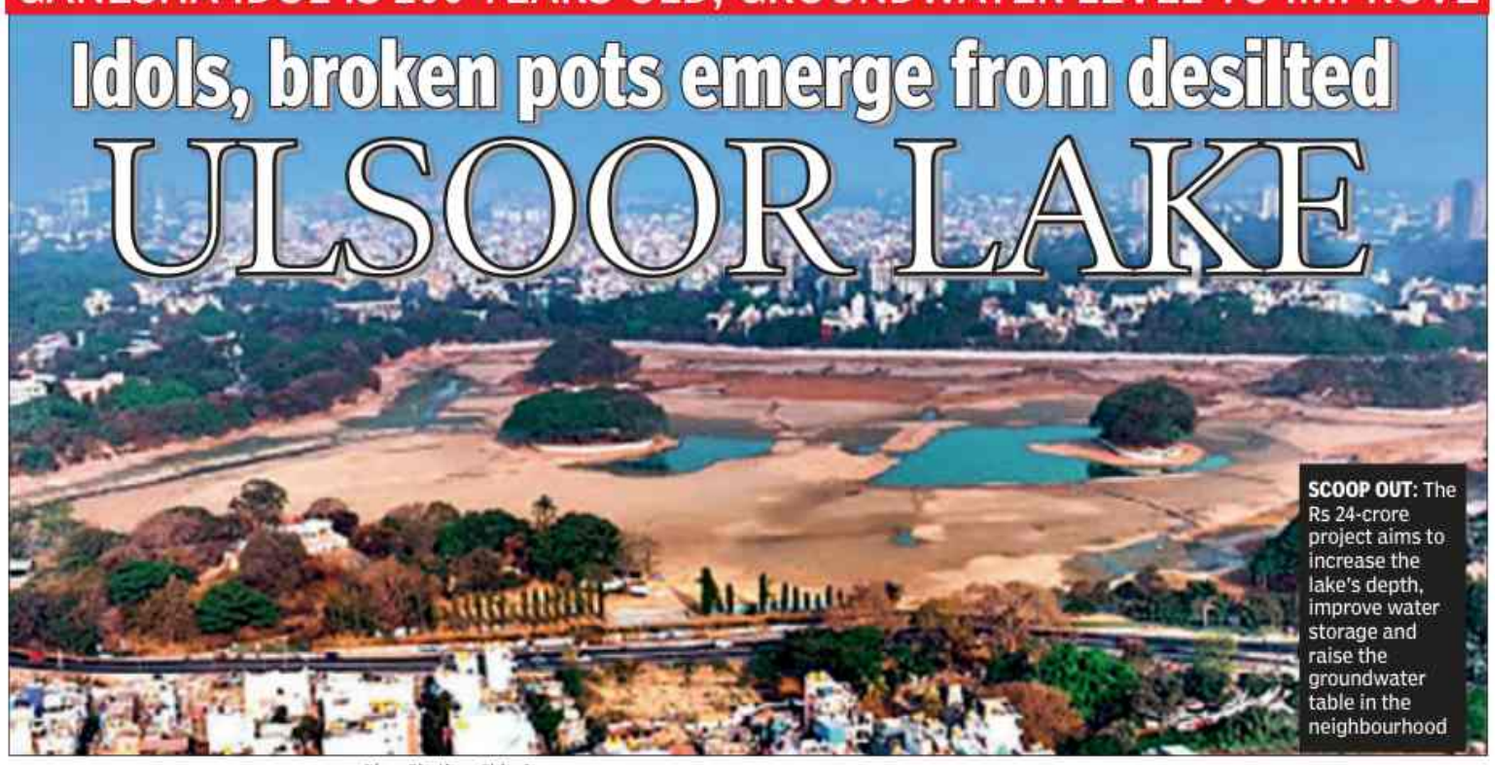
GANESHA IDOL IS 200 YEARS OLD; GROUNDWATER LEVEL TO IMPROVE

Idols, broken pots emerge from desilted ULSOOR LAKE



SCOOP OUT: The Rs 24-crore project aims to increase the lake's depth, improve water storage and raise the groundwater table in the neighbourhood

Pics: Chethan Shivakumar

Nithya.Mandyam
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Deep-desilting of 108-acre Ulsoor lake — one of the biggest and oldest in Bengaluru with its signature three islands — has thrown up fragments of claypots, fragments, stone sculptures, besides mounds of household waste.

Shards of clay pots and idols raised questions about their archaeological significance. An inspection by the department of archaeology on Feb 25 said most of the 14 sculptures discovered during the desilting process are modern. They do not hold significant historical value, according to Bengaluru Central city corporation officials.

One Ganesha idol of 200-year vintage has been handed over to the department for its likely antiquity value.

The Rs 24-crore project aims to increase the lake's depth, improve water storage and raise groundwater table in the neighbourhood. The lake has 15 acres of wetland and the rest is primary waterbody.

The lake was drained out in Jan and desilting started in Feb. Nearly 10% moisture remains in the desilted lakebed.

The sight of the partially drained lake triggered reactions online, linking it to Bengaluru's ongoing water concerns. Several residents shared photographs of the exposed lakebed, saying it could affect groundwater levels. Others urged authorities to complete work before April rain. Officials maintained that the exercise is part of a comprehensive restoration plan for one of the city's prominent lakes.

Saying the previous desilting was done nearly 30 years ago and bunds needed to be repaired, Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad Khan said the desilting was essential to remove decades of sediment accumulation and restore the lake's capacity. "The lake requires beautification too," he said.

Authorities have urged the citizens not to panic, emphasising the draining is part of a planned effort to restore the lake's ecological health and ensure long-term sustainability.

Rajendra Cholan, BCCC commissioner, explained the project would also help raise groundwater levels in surrounding areas. "Removing the thick silt layer will allow the lake to store fresh rainwater more effectively in the coming seasons," Cholan said.

"We cannot accurately measure the total volume of silt removed because its moisture content varies," an official part of the cleanup explained.

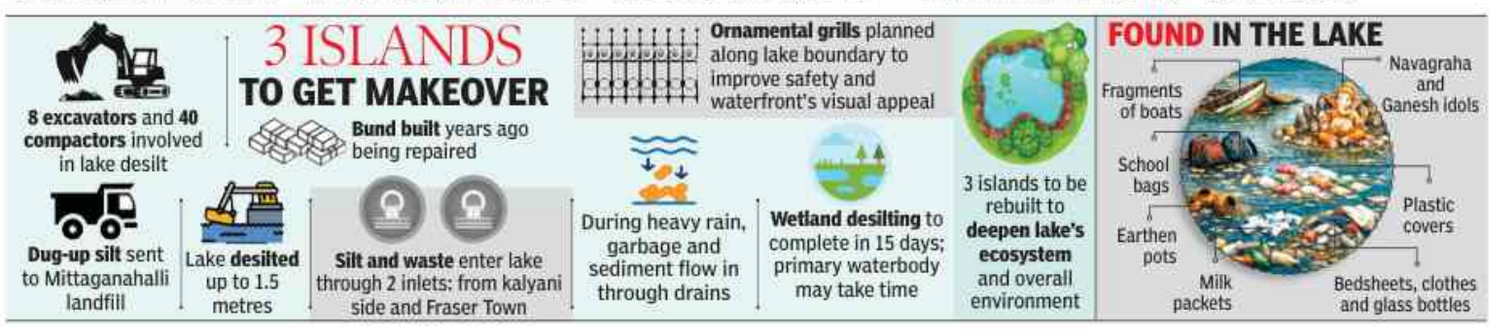
As part of beautification, the lake will get a two-level walkway and its bunds will be strengthened. "The walkway will provide citizens a safe and convenient path for walking," Cholan said.

A bridge linking the lake to a nearby park is under construction. The neighbouring park will be developed with new plant species to enhance greenery and biodiversity.

Officials noted the increased water depth could make a part of the lake suitable for training by the National Disaster Response Force.

IDOLS FROM TEMPLE?

Sculptures removed from the lake include one-foot Navagraha idols, three-foot Shani idol, two-foot Bhairava, marble Dattatreya and Ganesha idols. The archaeology dept said all sculptures, except one Ganesha idol, do not possess much historical significance. Experts said the idols may have been discarded into the lake during renovation or reconstruction of nearby temples.


3 ISLANDS
TO GET MAKEOVER
8 excavators and 40 compactors involved in lake desilt
Bund built years ago being repaired
Ornamental grills planned along lake boundary to improve safety and waterfront's visual appeal
Dug-up silt sent to Mittaganahalli landfill
Lake desilted up to 1.5 metres
Silt and waste enter lake through 2 inlets: from kalyani side and Fraser Town
During heavy rain, garbage and sediment flow in through drains
Wetland desilting to complete in 15 days; primary waterbody may take time
3 islands to be rebuilt to deepen lake's ecosystem and overall environment
FOUND IN THE LAKE
Navagraha and Ganesh idols
Fragments of boats
School bags
Earthen pots
Milk packets
Plastic covers
Bedsheets, clothes and glass bottles

Byte of revenge: Sacked youth loots ₹80L PC parts with dad

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Wearing a burqa with his face concealed by a dupatta, a 21-year-old gained entry into a shop in HBR Layout and made away with high-value computer components worth Rs 80 lakh. The accused, Hemanth M's partner in crime was his 45-year-old father Manjunath M, a resident of T Channaiah Layout in Nagawara. The father-son duo has landed in the custody of Govindapura police.

They fled with 444 RAM units and 279 SSDs in six minutes from Nitish Computers on the night of March 14. Police recovered the entire haul from Manjunath's grocery shop.

According to the complaint filed by shop owner Raghu G, when he opened his sjop at 11am the next day, he found the cupboard lock broken and Rs 2.4 lakh in cash missing, along with the electronic items.

Govindpura police inspector Kiran PB and his team examined CCTV footage, which showed burqa-clad accused opening the shutter using a key and entering the shop at 2am. He wore gloves in a bid to prevent leaving fingerprints. Hemanth was arrested in Nagawara on March 15. He confessed to committing the theft with his father, who was arrested subsequently.

Friendship turned enmity over sacking

Hemanth, who had completed his IInd year PU, was working as a technician in Raghu's shop but was sacked a month ago. His younger brother was also employed at the same shop. After gaining experience under Raghu, Hemanth had started his own computer service store.

A few years ago, Raghu's financial situation was precarious, and he had lived as a tenant in Manjunath's house. Over time, he improved his circumstances, set up his own shop and built a home. Given their close relationship, Raghu had even provided jobs to both of Manjunath's sons. However, after being dismissed, Hemanth and Manjunath reportedly turned against him. According to police, Manjunath dropped Hemanth near the shop on their scooter and waited nearby. After stealing, the duo fled the scene on the same vehicle.

Duplicate keys used

Hemanth was aware that Raghu used to keep the shop keys in his scooter's storage box. On March 13, he borrowed Raghu's scooter on the pretext of bringing an LPG gas cylinder, got duplicate keys made, and later used them to open the shop shutter.

Ex-student steals over ₹5 lakh gold jewellery from professor

Times News Network

Bengaluru: A private college professor filed a complaint against her ex-student, who allegedly entered her house in Banaswadi on the pretext of using the restroom, and stole gold ornaments worth Rs 5 lakh.

The teacher, Dr Sheela Anthony, caught the accused Elizabeth, red-handed and recovered her mangalya chain. However, she later found a gold necklace with a ruby pendant missing.

In her complaint, the professor said the woman visited her house on March 11 and requested permission to use the restroom, which the complainant allowed. Soon after, Sheela noticed that her cupboard had been opened and a stool was placed nearby. On checking, she found Elizabeth attempting to steal gold ornaments. However, fearing for her safety, she allowed Elizabeth to leave without raising an alarm.

In the following days, Elizabeth reportedly returned to the area multiple times, making enquiries about the professor, raising suspicion. When Sheela later checked her valuables, she found that a gold necklace with a ruby pendant missing.

FESTIVE SPIRIT SETS IN

Pics: Chethan Shivakumar

CELEBRATIONS KICK OFF: Families do last-minute shopping for celebrations of Ugadi, the traditional new year, symbolising renewal and prosperity. (Below) Shopping hub Brigade Road is decked up ahead of Eid Ul-Fitr; women beautify their hands with mehendi at Fraser Town

35k students miss SSLC EXAMS

Times News Network

Bengaluru: SSLC exams began with the first language paper Wednesday but around 35,000 students did not have enough attendance to appear for it, said Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB).

"Last year, the govt allowed these students to take SSLC exam 2. It can provide the same facility this year too," said an official while referring to students missing the exam. However, there were discrepancies in the number of students taking the exam as reported by department of school education.

A week before PU exams began, minister for school education and literacy Madhu Bangarappa held a press conference. At that time, the number of students supposed to take the exams was 9,02,889, including 8,12,855 freshers and 62,845 repeaters.

Pics: Syed Asif, TOI

FIRST SSLC PAPER

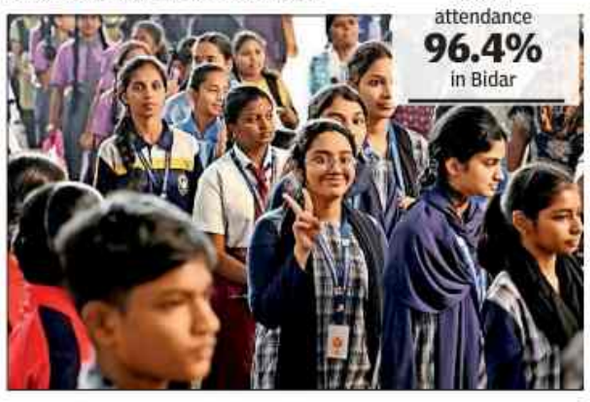
8.2 LAKH Students wrote first language exam

98.5% Attendance registered

Highest attendance **99.6%** in Udupi

Lowest attendance **96.4%** in Bidar

However, things turned by Tuesday, when the minister informed the legislature that 8,65,988 students will appear. KSEAB officials said this could be because students without sufficient attendance were included in the initial counts. However, other stakeholders said it could also be because of over-counting. KSEAB officials refused to comment on it.



Over 8 lakh students appeared for SSLC exams across the state that kickstarted Wednesday

Thief targets children at marriage halls

Bengaluru: A 45-year-old thief was arrested on charges of stealing gold and silver ornaments from children at marriage halls and public gatherings, and also lifting vehicles.

Police recovered 132 grams of gold ornaments, seven mobile phones, two laptops, two cars, four two-wheelers and Rs 1.2 lakh in cash from him. The stolen booty is worth Rs 42 lakh.

Babu alias Pulsar Babu is linked to over 19 theft cases. The Channapatna native was caught red-handed while attempting a theft at a function in Palace Grounds on March 7. Babu would dress well and visit convention halls. He'd approach children below 12-13 years, gain their trust and then steal their ornaments.

An E-city resident said his daughter's gold-plated silver chain and gold pendant worth Rs 70,000 were stolen at Palace Grounds on May 9, 2025. As CCTV camera was not functioning, the suspect was not captured. Babu has now confessed to committing the theft. TNN

Minister asks hotels to switch to power

Pearl.DSouza
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Amid LPG shortage, minister KH Muniyappa urged hotels to shift to electricity temporarily, promising improved supply within a week, even as commercial distribution remains capped and industry bodies flag widespread impact.

BURNER WOES

Muniyappa said the govt plans to consolidate a week's allocation and release between 10,000 and 15,000 cylinders. He said a meeting with hotel association representatives is scheduled Monday to review the situation.

Officials maintained domestic LPG supply remains unaffected and continues to be prioritised. According to them, daily domestic demand stands at 3,52,921 cylinders and being met by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) and other oil marketing companies. In contrast, commercial LPG supply has been capped at 20% of demand. Against a requirement of 44,000 cylinders, about 9,000 are being supplied each day.

Bengaluru Hotels' Association said two cylinders were supplied to some establishments following a court petition. Seeking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention, it said disruption in commercial LPG supply has affected around 40,000 self-employed hotel owners and nearly 6 lakh employees across the state.

155 cylinders seized

The food inspector and Talaghattapura police seized 155 cylinders — 148 empty and 7 filled during a raid at SV Gas Agency in Sir M Visvesvaraya Layout industrial area, Anjanapura.

22 men booked for wheelie stunts

Bengaluru: In a special drive, traffic police booked 22 men on charges of performing wheelie stunts in KR Pura limits Tuesday evening.

They were performing stunts near the junctions of Medahalli and Bhattarahalli, police said.

Following a tipoff, a team of cops in plain-clothes was deployed at the junctions. When the riders assembled and started performing stunts, they were detained and their two-wheelers seized. TNN

ALMANAC (19.3.2026)

Meena Masa 5 – Shri Vishvavasu Nama Samvatsara – Uttarayana – Shishira Ritu – Tithi: Phalguna Krishna Amavasya h. 6-53 then Shri Parabhava Nama Samvatsara – Uttarayana – Vasantha Ritu - Tithi: Chaitra Sukla Pratipad h. 28-53 Nakshatra: Uttara Bhadrapada h. 28-05 Yoga: Sukla (Sukra) h. 25-17. 29 Ramadan Kali Day 1872653 Ugadi

Rahu Kalam 1-30-3pm

— KL Vidya Shankara Somayaji

10-15 with consecutive numbers from same room cleared exam: Aspirants

▶ Continued from page 1

Aspirants alleged that 10-15 candidates with consecutive serial numbers from the same room at a single centre had cleared the exam. In some cases, candidates from the same family were said to have qualified.

Announcing the decision in the assembly, revenue minister Krishna Byregowda, replying on behalf of chief minister Siddaramaiah, said the govt had already initiated reforms and remained committed to further changes. "If the panel submits its report by the next legislature session in June or July, the govt will implement the recommendations made by the committee to improve the KPSC examination and recruitment system," he said.

Responding to several allegations, Byregowda said CCTV footage from exam halls had been verified and no suspicious activity or malpractice was found. He added that candidates with similar initials and surnames were not related and came from different districts.

The minister said the govt had implemented key recommendations of the Hota committee, including reducing interview marks from 200 to 25, as part of reforms in the examination system. He added that recruitment of gazetted probationers would be conducted annually with a fixed schedule. "We will discuss and provide a date with KPSC for this," Gowda said.

He said the CM had directed officials to assess vacancies for the next five years, with approval from the finance department, and that a final decision would follow consultations with the department of information and public relations.

The govt plans to fix timelines for filling Group C posts, ensuring exams and selections are completed within a defined period.

City hit by hailstorms again, rain brings heat relief

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Hailstorms and thundershowers continued to lash parts of Bengaluru for the second consecutive day Wednesday, providing much-needed relief from the sweltering heat that has gripped the city in recent weeks.

The sudden change in weather, accompanied by gusty winds and brief but intense bursts of rain, brought a noticeable drop in daytime temperatures, offering respite to residents. Strong winds and thundershowers also disrupted air travel, with 26 flights diverted at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

Several localities, including Byappanahalli, Bannerghatta Road, Kanakapura Road, JP Nagar, Shantinagar, Jayanagar, KR Market, Wilson Garden, Richmond Town, Basaveshwara Nagar and Tumakuru Road, witnessed heavy thundershowers. While hailstones fell in parts of east and south Bengaluru for a brief period, rain and thunder activity persisted in many areas until late evening. Traffic near Nelamangala on Tumakuru Road was affected after a signboard fell across the highway.

The unexpected showers caught citizens off guard, especially those engaged in festive shopping across busy hubs such as the central business district (CBD), Shivajinagar, Commercial Street, Chickpet and KR Market. The downpour disrupted traffic movement on major roads, with waterlogging in several stretches worsening the congestion. Many people travelling out of the city to their hometowns for Ugadi festival were stranded in traffic snarls caused by inundated roads.

Chethan Shivakumar

SUMMER SPECIAL: Many shoppers near Commercial Street were caught by surprise as showers drenched Bengaluru Wednesday

India Meteorological Department has forecast continued thundershowers in isolated parts of Bengaluru over the next few days, along with the possibility of strong winds. Officials have urged residents to exercise caution, especially during evening hours when such weather activity is expected to intensify.

CS Patil, scientist at IMD, Bengaluru, said: "There is a north-south trough extending over interiors of Karnataka besides discontinuity of winds. All districts have reported scorching heat over the past few days, resulting in intense hailstorms at isolated places of north and south-interior Karnataka."

Metro mayhem: 11 detained for on-board song & dance

Suchith.Kidiyoor
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Eleven passengers were detained for creating nuisance and obstructing operations on Namma Metro Green Line train Sunday night after a dispute over music escalated into a multi-station disruption. The trigger: The detained passengers — mainly a group of youngsters — launching into Bollywood numbers inside the moving train, which drew objections from fellow passengers.

RULE VIOLATION

The incident took place on a train from Madavara — the terminal station near Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC) — towards Kempegowda Interchange Metro Station. Videos on X showed passengers singing loudly, dancing and sitting on the floor inside coaches in violation of Metro rules.

Many passengers returning from a concert held at BIEC began singing and dancing.

Impromptu concert triggers fight among commuters

AI

NOT IN SYNC: Some commuters reported delays due to the incident

According to officials, the spat over impromptu on-board concert escalated into a heated argument involving multiple commuters and the ground staff over at least five stations on the route.

The tension peaked when the train reached Peenya Industry station at 10.57pm. Members of the sparring groups deboarded and continued arguing on the platform, with some obstructing the closure of train doors and delaying departure. Security staff intervened, advising passengers against disrupting services. After five minutes, they managed to dispatch the train.

Disruption continued at Goraguntepalya station. The loco pilot alerted security teams ahead.

By the time the train reached Sandal Soap Factory, additional personnel were mobilised. Security staff boarded the train and, with the help of co-passengers, identified six individuals involved in the disturbance. They were handed over to Subramanya Nagar police station. At Mahalakshmi, five more troublemakers were apprehended while attempting to leave the station. Similarly, at Kuvempu Road station, two passengers were identified and detained by security personnel, with Rajajinagar police taking them to the station.

Following interventions, the train proceeded without further disruption.

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation filed a complaint at Peenya police station against the 11 passengers.

Commuters reported delays due to the incident. Nataraj BK, who boarded the train from Nagasandra at 10.45pm, said the journey was severely affected. He said the train reached Konanakunte Cross past midnight — way beyond schedule. He alleged that some passengers were indulging in public display of affection.

The Green Line is a preferred mode of transport for those travelling to BIEC, a go-to venue for cultural events during weekends.

West Bengal woman gets bail in 'Jai Bangla' slogan case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The high court granted bail to a woman from West Bengal in connection with a criminal case registered by Hebbagodi police in Bengaluru for allegedly raising 'Jai Bangla' slogan.

The case was registered on Jan 11, against Sarbanu Khatun, a native of Nandigram in Purba Medinipur district, West Bengal, following a complaint filed after a video of the incident went viral.

She was booked under various provisions of BNS for allegedly hurting the sentiments of Indians. Khatun was arrested on Jan 12, and remanded to judicial custody. Sarbanu stated that she works as a domestic help, has two children, and had no intention of hurting the feelings or sentiments of anyone.

Justice S Rachaiah observed that the complaint indicated authorities were in the process of clearing sheds allegedly constructed unauthorisedly on govt land, and that the operation was being recorded by an individual. At that time, a person allegedly instigated Sarbanu to raise the slogan 'Jai Bharat Mata Ki Jai'. However, she first shouted 'Jai Bangla' and subsequently said 'Jai Bharat Mata Ki Jai' thrice.

Considering the circumstances of the case, as well as the fact that she has two kids who depend on her care, the court held that it is appropriate to grant bail. The judge noted that suitable conditions could address the prosecution's concerns. The court ordered her release on bail upon execution of a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh.

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Bill tabled, prescribes 5-year jail for honour killings; 3 years for injuries

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The govt Wednesday tabled the Karnataka Freedom of Choice in Marriage and Prevention and Prohibition of Honour and Tradition (Eva Nammava Eva Nammava) Bill, 2026, in the assembly, seeking to curb honour killings and caste-based violence linked to inter-caste and interfaith marriages.

The bill draws its name from a 12th-century vachana by social reformer Basavanna, meaning 'He is ours, he is ours', reflecting ideals of equality and non-discrimination. The move follows the Dec 2025 killing of a pregnant woman in Hubballi, allegedly by her family for marrying a Dalit man.

Priyank Kharge, rural development and panchayat raj minister, tabled the bill on behalf of the law minister. The proposed legislation gives consenting adults the right to marry and prescribes stiff jail terms for offences committed in the name of honour, besides fines.

It states that those responsible for causing death of a person or couple in the name of honour could face a minimum prison term of five years, without affecting punishments under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. For grievous injuries inflicted on a couple or individual, the bill proposes a jail term of not less than three years and a fine of up to Rs 3 lakh. Causing minor injuries could attract a minimum prison term of two years and a fine of up to Rs 2 lakh.

The bill also seeks to penalise unlawful assemblies formed in the name of honour or tradition, as well as acts of criminal intimidation against couples, their relatives or supporters. Such offences could invite imprisonment of three to five years and a fine of up to Rs 2 lakh. All offences under the proposed law are classified as non-bailable.

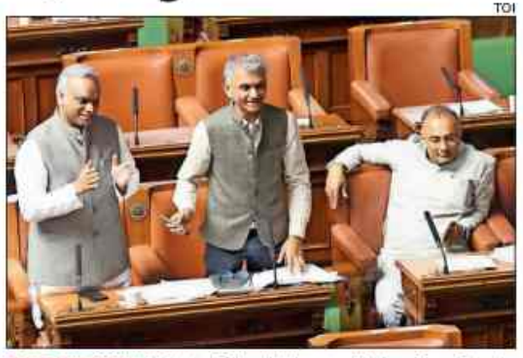
It notes that honour-based violence, especially against young adults exercising their right to choose a partner through inter-caste marriages, continues due to caste-based discrimination and violates fundamental rights under Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution.

The govt said the bill was proposed in the absence of a dedicated law addressing honour-based crimes, which has often led to perpetrators escaping stringent punishment and victims receiving inadequate protection and rehabilitation.

The legislation also proposes setting up district-level platforms titled 'Iva Nammava' to support couples and prevent such crimes. These panels, to be constituted by district magistrates, will include a retired judge, police officer, revenue officer, sub-registrar and others.

The bill provides for fast track courts for cases under the act and mandates police to file chargesheets within two months. It also includes provisions for safe shelter and security for affected couples.

TOI



COME ON, NOW: Ministers Priyank Kharge, Krishna Byre Gowda and Dinesh Gundu Rao take on the opposition in the legislative assembly on Wednesday

Council nod for hoardings bill

The legislative council passed the Karnataka Municipalities and Certain Other Laws Bill, 2026, which is aimed at regulating outdoor advertisements and enabling municipal bodies to levy and collect fees on hoardings and billboards across the state. The bill was discussed extensively. The Upper House also passed the Karnataka Police Bill, 2026, moved by the home minister G Parameshwara. It empowers the Police Establishment Board to immediately transfer police officers up to the rank of deputy superintendent of police for misconduct, negligence, or dereliction of duty. Both bills were passed in the assembly Monday.

DKS' home turf Kanakapura among backward taluks

Niranjan.Kaggere
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Kanakapura, home constituency of deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar, has been classified as a backward taluk in the latest regional imbalance report by economist M Govind Rao.

The report, tabled in the assembly, has identified 177 backward taluks, a sharp increase from 118 flagged in the earlier assessment by economist DM Nanjundappa. This, despite govts spending Rs 32,000 crore over the past 15 years. However, the number of taluks have also increased — from 175 in 2002-03 to the current 236.

While most of the backward taluks are in north Karnataka, Kanakapura features among the 23 in the south — or more pertinently Bengaluru division. In contrast, Varuna, represented by chief minister Siddaramaiah within Mysuru taluk, has been categorised as a developed taluk.

The report also reveals many of the most backward taluks in Kalyana Karnataka and Kittur Karnataka are represented by ministers in the current govt, many of whom have been elected from these constituencies several times.

Highlighting widening disparities, the report states, "The affluence of Karnataka can be characterised as the prosperity of Bengaluru, Bengaluru Rural and the two coastal districts — Mangaluru and Udupi, the coffee growing district of Chikkamagalur and Shivamogga with the remaining parts of the state continuing to stagnate."

These six districts account for 29% of the population and have seen their share in income contribution rise from 44.7% in 2005-06 to 53.4% in 2022-23. "Of this, Bengaluru contributed 38.3% from its decade old figure of 28.7%," the report said.

MINS & BACKWARD TALUKS*

Bhalki	Eshwar Khandre
Chittapur	Priyank Kharge
Sedam	Sharanprakash Patil
Kanakagiri	Shivaraj Tangadagi
Manavi/ Raichur	Boseraju NS

*in Kalyana Karnataka

Airport proximity rule stifling B'luru's growth, says DKS

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru/New Delhi: Deputy chief minister D K Shivakumar Wednesday said stringent height restrictions imposed by civil aviation authorities and defence establishments are impacting Bengaluru's urban expansion. He said these restrictions make it difficult to meet demands of a growing population.

"We are unable to widen roads," Shivakumar said in Delhi. "On one side, there is HAL Airport and on the other Kempegowda Airport. In between, there is Jakkur Airfield, and the Air Force base at Yelahanka. High-rise construction is not permitted for several kilometres around these areas."

He raised the issue during a meeting with Union civil aviation minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu and urged the Centre to relax norms to align Bengaluru with other metro cities.

Shivakumar said major projects have been affected due to these curbs. "I proposed a skydeck project and worked on it for nearly two-and-a-half years, but eventually we had to shift it because HAL said nothing can be done within a 20km radius," he said.

ANI

HIGH-FLYING: DK Shivakumar with Union minister Ram Mohan Naidu in Delhi on Wednesday

He said restrictions are also undermining benefits of the premium floor area ratio introduced by the govt. "Developers are willing to pay, but they can't use it. This is affecting govt revenue," he said.

Shivakumar said Bengaluru faces far stricter norms compared to other cities. "Such curbs are comparatively less in Hyderabad and Mumbai. We requested the Centre to ensure the same norms for Karnataka." He said the Centre has promised a review. "The problem exists in other states, and they have promised a comprehensive approach. We will continue to exert pressure," he said.

One-month deadline to fix jumbo barriers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Forest minister Eshwar Khandre Wednesday directed officials to repair and maintain elephant trenches and hanging solar fences in Kodagu within a month to curb human-elephant conflict. At a review meeting, he ordered repairs to 422km of trenches and 544km of solar fencing. Pointing to rising fatalities, he said 38% of human-wildlife conflict deaths in the state occur in Kodagu alone.

Officials said two recent deaths highlight the situation. On March 12, a 49-year-old coffee grower, Ganapathi, was trampled by an elephant near Siddapura in Virajpet taluk; the animal was captured the next day. On March 9, a 55-year-old woman was killed in a similar attack in Valnoor, Kushalnagar taluk.

Khandre asked officials to intensify patrolling and strengthen rapid response and the elephant task force teams. Four additional vehicles have been procured, taking the total to 10, and approval was given to procure four more. Local youth will be engaged on an outsourced basis to boost field operations.

Khandre also directed the establishment of a wireless network to track wildlife movement and curb poaching and illegal felling. Officials were told to map plantation workers across zones and issue alerts via WhatsApp and vehicle-mounted public address systems when elephants approach. With summer looming, he told officials to ensure adequate water and fodder in forests and share pond water level data with the public and local representatives.

DJ or no DJ? Discord over festival soundscape

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: What began as a discussion on cultural events turned into a noisy divide in the assembly Wednesday, with members split over whether disc jockeys (DJs) and 'item songs' belong at jayantis and processions.

Labour minister Santosh Lad pitched for a ban, saying, "DJs have become a big problem at jayantis and festivals. Gods don't move forward in a procession without a DJ and an item song. This is shameful and does our culture no good. They should be banned."

Endorsing his view, Kannada and culture minister Shivaraj Tangadagi said, "BJP should cooperate. We will issue an order because DJs are creating a lot of problems. If everyone agrees, it will be done."

But BJP refused to buy the argument. SN Channabasappa hit back, saying: "They (Cong) may not want DJs, but we want it. You cannot do as you please. Ban azaan as per a Supreme Court order if you can." At this, speaker UT Khader intervened and said the Supreme Court order concerns only decibel limits.

Meanwhile, Channabasappa's party colleague, Suresh Kumar, supported restrictions. "I agree they are not part of our culture... I have seen children and people with pacemakers suffer. We must consider the noise pollution," he said.

The debate was triggered by a question on funding Sahyadri or Malnad utsav in Shivamogga.

TOI

TALKING POINTS: Saleem Ahmed and transport minister Ramalinga Reddy in the council

Funds for utsavs

Earlier, members from both treasury and opposition benches pressed the govt to allocate funds for district-level utsavs to promote local culture artists, with several calling for a clear policy to institutionalise such events.

Raising the issue during question hour, legislators said district utsavs provide a platform for regional talent and help preserve traditional art forms. Channabasappa highlighted increasing demands from districts.

Responding to this, Tangadagi said, "People from each district are now asking for funds for district-level utsavs." He said guidelines exist but proposals must come from districts. "If these utsavs are celebrated at historical places like Hampi and Anegundi, it will be good, but it will be a problem for the department if all districts launched such celebrations," he said.

Khader urged a structured approach. "Please allot funds for each district and transfer it to the deputy commissioners. Frame a separate policy for it otherwise our younger generation and children will forget local culture and tradition. BJP's V Sunil Kumar suggested organising state-level utsavs across regions alongside district events, while BJP's Janardhan Reddy sought revival of Anegundi utsav.

Priyank Kharge, RDPR minister, said, "We should create a throughout-the-year event calendar... Rs 20 crore is spent on some two-day festival, but what about the remaining 363 days?" Lad said costs escalate due to big-ticket performances.

SHORT TAKES

98% automation of khatas achieved

Revenue minister Krishna Byre Gowda told the legislative council that 98% of property titles have been covered under the ongoing automation initiative. The new system ensures that if no objection is filed within seven days, automatic mutation documents (change of khata) will be created with digital signatures of the village accountant and revenue inspector. "There was a general complaint about the process of khata change being delayed after registration of properties. In response, we have rolled out reforms in two phases in the past two years. About 66% properties were covered in the first phase and last month it touched 98%," Gowda said.

₹30cr allocated to repair 1k overhead tanks

RDPR minister Priyank Kharge told the assembly that the govt conducted an audit of all overhead tanks (OHTs) in the state and found some 1,000 tanks needed repair. He said the govt allocated Rs 30 crore for the work. He said repairing each tank would cost around Rs 90,000 on average, and overall.

Anganwadis to soon roll out LKG, UKG sections

Woman and child welfare minister Laxmi Hebbalkar said the govt will introduce LKG and UKG classes in anganwadis and launch state-run montessoris to strengthen early childhood education. Highlighting infrastructure upgrades, she said, "We have already upgraded 5,000 anganwadis, and we are prepared to upgrade another 5,000 this June. We must provide quality education in anganwadis as well."

₹5L ex gratia for cops killed in road crash

CM Siddaramaiah announced compensation of Rs 5 lakh each for families of three policemen killed in a road accident in Chitradurga. "An amount of Rs 2 lakh will also be given to each of those injured. This is an extremely tragic incident," Siddaramaiah said in a post on X. Sub-inspectors Amaresh, Manjunath and Sachin were killed and two others injured after their car rammed a lorry on the Bengaluru–Ballari highway.

Delhi will take call on bypoll candidates: CM

CM Siddaramaiah said Congress' high command will decide on candidate for the bypolls after consultations and ground reports. He said he will discuss with DK Shivakumar and Randeep Singh Surjewala before sending recommendations. He urged unity among Meti family aspirants in Bagalkot and dismissed rebellion concerns. Shivakumar said consultations are ongoing and a report has been submitted.

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J.K. ORGANISATION
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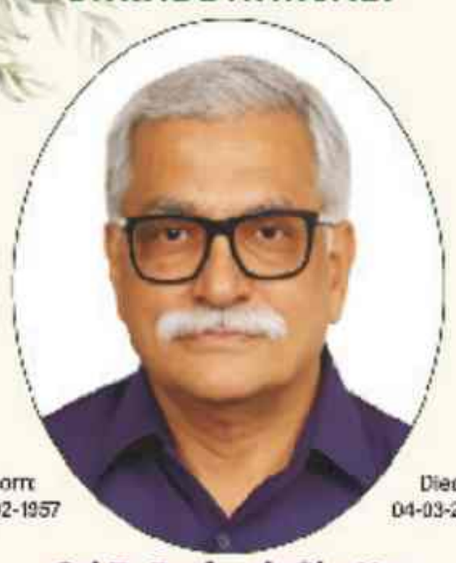

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Sri B. Prakash Shetty
[Techno Products & Chemicals and Deepthy Labs Pvt. Ltd.]
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Devika Shetty (Wife)
Deviprasad Shetty (Son) - Akshatha Shetty (Daughter-in-law)
Harshvardhan Shetty (Grand Son)
and Family Members

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19/03/32 - 29/09/24
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K'taka ranks 4th in consumer justice, Bengaluru beats peers

Karnataka has been ranked fourth among 19 large and mid-sized states in the Consumer Justice Report 2026 released Wednesday, even as staffing gaps and falling disposal rates raise concerns about its redressal system.

CONSUMER FOCUS

The report, by the India Justice Report, places Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan ahead. It assesses states on budgets, infrastructure, human resources, workload and gender diversity. On the positive side, consumer commissions in Karnataka cleared 109% of cases on average during 2020-24, indicating backlog reduction. The state also recorded the highest gender diversity, with women making up 50% of members and 43% of staff in 2024.

However, key gaps persist. As of 2025, the State Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission had no president, and 88% of member posts were vacant. District commissions faced 42% shortfall in presidents. Karnataka fares relatively well on long-pending cases, with 28% pending beyond three years.

At the state level, 1 in 4 cases is still pending.

STATE AHEAD OF MAHARASHTRA & TN

Assessment on consumer dispute redressal capacity and workload

Large and mid-sized states

State	Rank (out of 19)	Score (out of 10)
Andhra Pradesh	1	6.3
Madhya Pradesh	2	5.9
Rajasthan	3	5.8
Karnataka	**4**	**5.8**
West Bengal	5	5.0
Haryana	6	4.9
Tamil Nadu	7	4.4
Assam	8	4.4
Uttarakhand	9	4.4
Uttar Pradesh	10	4.3

Graphic shows ranking of top 10 states out of 19 assessed in large and mid-sized category. States ranked between 11 and 19 in that order are: **Maharashtra, Kerala, Bihar, Gujarat, Punjab, Odisha, Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand and Telangana**

CLEARANCE RATE IN B'LURU DROPS 46%

Overall performance of district consumer dispute redressal commissions (DCDRCs) in Bengaluru shows scope for improvement. Case clearance rates in district commissions dropped sharply from 96% in 2022 to 50% in 2024. While overall staff strength increased, the number of women fell

Staff strength and vacancy

District Commission	Staff, actual 2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Staff, vacancy (%) 2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Bengaluru Urban II Addl	8	–	11	11	11	0	0	15	15	15
Bengaluru Urban IV Addl	11	11	11	11	11	8	21	21	21	21
Bengaluru Urban	12	12	12	12	12	14	14	14	14	14
Bengaluru Rural, Urban 1st Addl	9	9	10	10	10	36	36	29	29	29

Total staff in 2025 up to 44 from 40 in 2021; women staff dips to 21 from 25. Source: RTI responses received between April and June, 2025

No vacancy (%) Upto 25% 25 to 50%

Case filings and clearance rate

District Commission	Cases filed 2022	2023	2024	2025 Q1	Total	Clearance rate (%) 2022	2023	2024	2025 Q1	Total
Bengaluru Urban	330	521	463	107	1,421	99	91	46	0	71
Urban II Addl	379	452	482	35	1,348	95	78	38	3	67
Urban III Addl	282	392	474	63	1,211	94	91	66	8	78

Data available for Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Urban II Additional and Bengaluru Urban III Additional DCDRCs. (2025 Q1 refers to Jan-March 2025)

Where Urban India Is Fighting Back

Housing dominates consumer grievances across major cities. Kolkata leads at 33.4%, followed closely by Bengaluru (32.9%) and Mumbai (27.5%). But Mumbai stands out for another reason: its insurance complaints rival housing at 25.8%, the highest among all cities. Delhi and Chennai show more distributed patterns across sectors. From homebuyers to policyholders, urban India is demanding greater accountability — and the numbers prove it.

Text: **Chethan Kumar**, Design: **Sadashiva P**

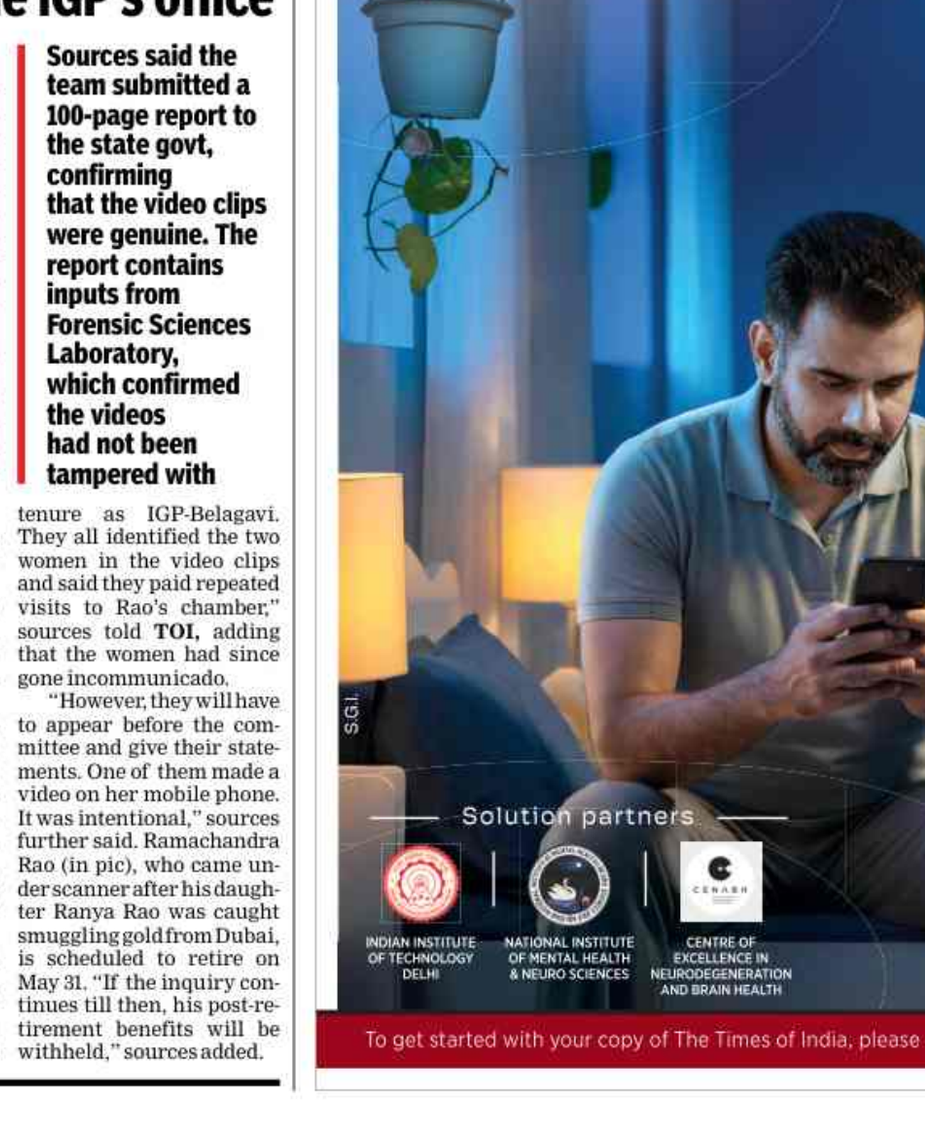
5 BIGGEST CITIES' PERFORMANCE

Compared with Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, Bengaluru tops the five major cities in case clearance, but ranks in the middle on disposal time and number of hearings

Case clearance rate (2010-24): B'luru ranks best among major cities

City	Cases filed	Cases disposed	Share of cases filed (%)	Case clearance rate (%)
Delhi	66,984	46,627	38	70
Bengaluru	42,522	37,015	24	87
Kolkata	30,628	24,358	17	79
Mumbai	24,899	16,981	14	68
Chennai	9,997	7,203	6	72
Total	**1,75,030**	**1,32,184**	–	**75**

No. of hearings for disposal (2010-2024): Nearly a third of all cases in B'luru disposed of in 1-5 hearings; it's nearly half in Delhi



Poll squad seizes ₹2.3cr on TN border

Bengaluru: Officials on election duty Wednesday seized Rs 2.3 crore from a cash logistics vehicle at Zuzuvadi checkpost on Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border.

In the backdrop of Tamil Nadu assembly elections, security has been tightened on the border and election officials are frisking persons and vehicles that are entering that state.

Officials stopped the logistics vehicle and directed its staff to produce documents for the cash. Though staffers claimed the money was meant to be deposited in automated teller machine (ATM) kiosks, they failed to produce relevant documents, sources said. TNN

Study mode on: B'gavi village embraces digital detox; patchy uptake in Haveri

Basavaraj Marahalli & Mrityunjay Yallapurmath | TNN

TOI

FOCUS HOUR: At Halaga village in Belagavi district, children study with the TV set switched off

Haveri/Belagavi: Every evening in Halaga village of Belagavi district, a siren from the gram panchayat office cuts through the air, prompting residents to switch off televisions and put away their mobile phones — a cue that has turned a two-hour 'digital detox' into a shared community responsibility.

Launched last Dec as a voluntary initiative, the practice has sustained for over two months, drawing widespread participation. Panchayat officials say more than 80% of households are adhering to the routine.

"Students are making productive use of time away from digital devices, while parents have become more involved in monitoring academic progress," said Joseph Fernandes, secretary of Halaga gram panchayat.

This coordinated effort stands out at a time when the call for a two-hour evening digital detox — between 7pm and 9pm during March and April — to help class 10 students prepare for their SSLC exams has seen uneven implementation across the state. In several villages of Haveri taluk, for instance, the same appeal has largely remained an advisory, with little evidence of it being followed on the ground.

During a recent visit to Devihosur, **TOI** found hardly any difference during the designated detox hours. A student preparing for her SSLC exams was seen revising her lessons in a small room, even as her father spoke loudly on his mobile phone nearby.

At another house in the village, a student sat studying behind a locked door, while his mother watched a TV serial in the living room, insisting that the low volume would not disturb him.

In Kabbur village, some youths on a terrace had their eyes glued to live ICC T20 World Cup coverage on their mobile phones, arguing that using gadgets outside would not affect those studying indoors. Across several homes, while students were busy solving their mathematics problems and grappling with science diagrams, the sound of Kannada TV soaps, loud phone conversations and everyday family chatter continued to emanate from adjoining rooms. Many parents appeared assured that their children could remain focused regardless of such distractions.

Officials have admitted the digital detox campaign hinges entirely on voluntary participation. "It's not an order. We've only requested parents to help us in scaling up the district's performance in SSLC exams. Parents switching off mobiles and TVs voluntarily is better for their children's academics," said Haveri DDPI Mohan Dandin.

MB Ambiger, the BEO of Shiggaon, said the response from parents has been only partial. "Whenever families continue to live as usual, students are left to battle distraction on their own," said an educationist, requesting anonymity.

Prajwal case: Complainant alleges key names omitted

▶Continued from page 1

Based on the complaint, police registered a case under provisions of Information Technology Act, 2008, along with relevant sections of Indian Penal Code. The probe was later handed over to SIT.

Poornachandra, however, expressed dissatisfaction with the outcome of the probe, alleging that key names had been omitted. "Police should find out who the kingpin is. I had mentioned names of some influential people in my statement to the police. They should dig deeper," he said.

According to police officials, SIT examined the role of 52 individuals and found material evidence against 39. Those listed include Naveen Kumar N R alias Naveen Gowda, Karthik, a former driver of Revanna, advocate Devaraje Gowda, and Harish Gowda, a former aide of Prajwal.

Investigators said individuals linked to multiple political parties figure in the case.

The probe, led by additional SP MK Thammaiah, relied on technical and forensic evidence, including analysis by Forensic Sciences Laboratory, and statements of 277 witnesses.

Investigators flagged what they described as a coordinated mechanism to circulate the videos. Around 70 pen drives were allegedly procured and used to distribute the clips across regions. Police said one of the accused, Harish, purchased pen drives through a UPI transaction, details of which were collected during the probe. Last Aug, a special court in Bengaluru had convicted Prajwal (in pic) in one of the cases involving sexual abuse and rape, sentencing him to life imprisonment and imposing fines on him.

Parabhava yr to bring good rain, economic growth: Somayaji

Engineering industries, including automotive, components and machinery manufacturing, may see a boost in production and exports. Domestic retail consumption is expected to remain strong, while exports could show mixed results

Sringeri Sharada Peetham Dharmadhikari Dajvajna **KN Somayaji** said Parabhava Nama Samvatsara, the Hindu New Year beginning on Ugadi Thursday, indicates a bright and promising future for India.

Explaining the astrological outlook for the year, Somayaji said Parabhava Samvatsara will be an Adhika Masa year with 13 months, and notably no eclipses will occur during the entire year. He clarified though Amavasya continues until 6.42am on March 19, there is no confusion and the entire day will be observed as Ugadi.

He predicted that the IT industry will continue to maintain demand, and the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on jobs may not be immediate, though some job losses are possible. Manufacturing industries are also expected to increase their workforce.

Somayaji said good rainfall across the country, including spells of excess rain, is likely and will boost agricultural production. Foodgrains and oilseeds are expected to record good output. However, sugar industries and sugarcane farmers may face some setbacks and conflicts during the year. According to him, prices of steel, cement, gold, silver and copper are likely to rise, while the share market is expected to gain strength, with several IPOs likely to succeed and the secondary market witnessing growth. Industries such as pharmaceuticals, chemicals and mining, including iron ore, are expected to perform well.

Engineering industries, including automotive, components and machinery manufacturing, may see a boost in production and exports. Domestic retail consumption is expected to remain strong, while exports could show mixed results.

He said sectors such as hospitality, tourism and real estate are likely to witness a boom. India is also expected to attract higher foreign direct investment, while govt monetisation activities may increase. Power production is expected to remain satisfactory and petroleum production and distribution may improve. However, Somayaji cautioned that the year could also witness severe winter, heavy rains and political clashes, with possibilities of communal tensions in parts of northern and western India. Bordering countries may continue to create disturbances, though India is expected to successfully counter them.

He also noted the possibility of a major scam involving political leaders or bureaucrats and the demise of a prominent national leader, which could significantly influence national politics.

Overall, Somayaji said the Parabhava year indicates a bright and promising future for India, with growth expected in sectors such as dairy, animal feed, meat and leather exports. However, the commercial education sector may see stagnation, and student unrest may occur in some parts of the country. He also warned of major fire, rail and road accidents in the early part of the year.

Sleaze videos shot in 2016-17 inside IGP's office

▶Continued from page 1

The videos were reportedly shot in 2016-17 inside the office of the inspector general of police (Belagavi range). While a section of the media pointed fingers at Rao as he had served as IGP (Belagavi range) earlier, the latter denied the allegations, claiming the videos were fabricated.

As the issue threatened to snowball into a political controversy, chief minister Siddaramaiah suspended Rao, ordered a probe and formed a committee comprising IPS officials — headed by additional director general of police R Hitendra, with Chetan Singh Rathore, Rishyanth CB and Kala Krishnaswamy as its other members.

Sources said the team submitted a 100-page report to the govt, confirming that the video clips were genuine. The report contains inputs from the forensic sciences laboratory (FSL), which confirmed that the videos had not been tampered with.

"The team recorded statements from orderlies, drivers, staffers and other junior officers who had worked with Rao during his tenure as IGP-Belagavi. They all identified the two women in the video clips and said they paid repeated visits to Rao's chamber," sources told **TOI**, adding that the women had since gone incommunicado.

Sources said the team submitted a 100-page report to the state govt, confirming that the video clips were genuine. The report contains inputs from Forensic Sciences Laboratory, which confirmed the videos had not been tampered with

"However, they will have to appear before the committee and give their statements. One of them made a video on her mobile phone. It was intentional," sources further said. Ramachandra Rao (in pic), who came under scanner after his daughter Ranya Rao was caught smuggling gold from Dubai, is scheduled to retire on May 31. "If the inquiry continues till then, his post-retirement benefits will be withheld," sources added.

Which stories should your focus be on?
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MODI SET TO ADDRESS THREE RALLIES ACROSS ASSAM IN EARLY APRIL AHEAD OF UPCOMING STATE ELECTIONS

7 China-bound oil tankers now headed for India, says report

Govt: Unaware Of Any Such Course Change

TNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi: Amid the scarcity of oil, a tanker carrying Russian crude, which is likely to dock at the New Mangalore Port on Saturday, according to data from ship tracking website Marine Traffic, is generating significant interest.

The ship, Aqua Titan, was originally headed for the Chinese port of Rizhao, but turned towards India, news agency Bloomberg reported.

What made it change course was unclear, although govt maintained that it was "unaware of such a development".

The Russian ship had loaded the cargo from a Baltic Sea port in late Jan, according to ship-tracking data. At least seven tankers carrying Russian oil have switched their destinations mid-voyage from China to India, Bloomberg said, quoting data from Vortexa.

Separately, the Suezmax Zouzou N is signaling India's Sikka as its next destination, with an estimated arrival date of March 25, ship-tracking data show. The tanker is carrying Kazakh CPC Blend crude, according to Kpler. It had sailed from Novorossiysk on Russia's Black Sea to the waters off Rizhao, before turning around in early March to make its way to India. Govt has asked oil companies to purchase crude and stock up in the wake of a massive supply disruption caused by the blockage in the Strait of Hormuz.

While India had never stopped purchasing Russian oil, despite claims made by the US, refiners led by Reliance Industries – which was the biggest gainer of discounted oil – had gone slow on Rosneft and Lukoil after American sanctions. But with the US removing restrictions on high sea purchases every country is now buying oil according to its requirement, seeking to fill the gap caused by West Asian crude shortage. India's purchases of Russian crude have surged nearly 50% in March as refiners turn to alternative sources to offset supply disruptions in the Persian Gulf.

IANS

India-flagged tanker Jag Laadki arrives at Mundra Port carrying crude oil from the United Arab Emirates in Mundra, Gujarat on Wednesday

US envoy & NSA discuss geopolitical issues

New Delhi: US ambassador to India Sergio Gor met NSA Ajit Doval Wednesday to discuss security and geopolitical issues. "Just wrapped up an extremely fruitful meeting with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. Covered critical security & geopolitical issues. Strategic cooperation between the United States and India continues to advance," said Gor in a post on X.

India has said it prefers dialogue with Iran to secure safe passage for its ships awaiting clearance from Tehran to sail through the strait. India has denied having any sort of dialogue with the US about President Donald Trump's proposal for sending warships to facilitate movement of vessels through the key energy route that remains under an Iranian blockade. TNN

Switch to PNG, get more LPG, Centre to states

Atul.Mathur@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The govt on Wednesday proposed increasing the allocation of commercial LPG cylinders to 30% of their average requirement for states that encourage a switch to piped natural gas (PNG).

Amid a squeeze on LPG supplies due to the conflict in West Asia, the govt has prioritised domestic consumers and restricted distribution to commercial entities to 20% of their average monthly consumption after initially suspending supplies. It is simultaneously encouraging consumers in urban pockets to switch to PNG by either activating dormant connections or applying for new ones.

The "incentive" for states indicates that there has been some switch to piped gas, freeing some capacity that can be utilised by restaurants and other commercial users, although the overall LPG situation was described as "worrisome" even on Tuesday.

Petroleum secretary Neeraj Mittal stated that he has written to states urging them to relax the norms around digging charges and lease rent levied by local bodies for laying gas pipelines.

PM Modi speaks to Kuwait Crown Prince, condemns attacks by Iran

New Delhi: India's continued engagement with the Gulf saw PM Narendra Modi speaking to Kuwait Crown Prince **Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah** and underlining the significance of safe navigation through Strait of Hormuz and condemning the Iranian attacks on Kuwait. This was the second time Modi spoke to the Crown Prince since the US-Israel strikes on Iran on Feb 28. The PM had on Tuesday spoken to UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to condemn the attacks and to stress the need for efforts to ensure safe passage through the key energy route. Modi also conveyed Eid greetings to both leaders.

"We exchanged views on the evolving situation in West Asia and shared concerns over recent developments. Reiterated India's condemnation of attacks on Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Ensuring safe and free navigation through the Strait of Hormuz remains our foremost priority," Mstated on X.

Kuwait remains a reliable source of both crude and LPG for India. In 2024-25, Kuwait accounted for about 3.5% of India's total energy needs, ranking as India's sixth largest crude supplier and fifth largest LPG source.

Airlines must make 60% of seats free of 'selection charge'

Flyers On Same PNR To Be Seated Together

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Airlines will now have to offer at least 60% seats "on any flight" without any selection charge and passengers travelling on the same PNR — who are usually family members or travelling in a group — will need to be seated together, "preferably on adjacent seats".

Civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu Wednesday directed the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to issue this passenger-friendly directive, in a bid to address one of the biggest grouses of air travellers. Airlines have been pulled up several times for levying fees over and above the airfare.

Govt wants airlines to make available "minimum 60% of seats on any flight to be allocated free of charge to ensure fair access". How this is implemented remains to be seen as 40% of seats being available for pre-booking will mean guaranteeing passengers travelling on same PNR being seated together will be very difficult, if not impossible, airline executives said.

Some airlines are studying whether such a directive will be legally valid. Privately, executives criticised the move arguing that revenue will be hit as domestic airfares have been capped and costs are rising due to the West Asia crisis. DGCA was forced to step in to cap domestic fares after airlines were found to be profiteering after IndiGo failed to meet the flying norms for crew, resulting in cancellation of flights.

The issue of people travelling in groups being seated separately if they do not pay extra for seat selection has irked travellers across the world, not just in India. The US, for instance, has been grappling with this issue for years and even drew criticism from then US president Joe Biden. In April 2024, DGCA had mandated that airlines must ensure children up to 12 years old are seated with at least one of their parents or guardians on flights without being required to pay extra for seat selection if travelling on the same PNR.

AI

Airlines are studying if the directives are legally valid

Iconic Jewish bakery downs shutter in Kol amid LPG crisis

Ajanta.Chakraborty
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Kolkata's only Jewish bakery, the 123-year-old Nahoum and Sons in New Market, closed its shutters Wednesday, unable to sustain operations due to the ongoing LPG crisis in the wake of the West Asia war.

"The shop will remain closed from 18th March to 22nd March 2026, due to unavoidable circumstances," stated a notice pasted on the shutter, even as insiders admitted they were still unsure when the bakery would be able to function normally.

"Ever since the LPG shortage began, we had somehow been managing all these days. The quantity of items decreased. We carried on until it was decided to stop operations temporarily. It was impossible to continue half-heartedly. There will be a sustained effort to reopen as soon as possible," manager Jagadish Haldar said.

Neighbouring shop owners were surprised by the closure. "Its weekly closure is on Saturdays. This is the first time I have seen it being shut for such a long duration," said Sushil Jasnani, owner of the garments shop next door.

The confectionery was closed for a day when David Nahoum, the last owner, died in 2013.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I R SREEDEVI NAIR, spouse of B H A S K A R A N N A I R GURUKAL KANDI resident of No. 931, Devi Nivas, Sree Rama Temple Street, New Thippasandra, Bengaluru – 560 075, KARNATAKA, INDIA have changed my name from R S R E E D E V I N A I R to SREEDEVI R vide Affidavit dated 16.03.2026 sworn to before H.S. Sakalesh Aradhya, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

I, ARAVIND SANTHOSH KUMAR, holder of Indian Passport No. Z7327620, hereby declare that I have changed my name structure as follows: Old Name: ARAVIND SANTHOSH KUMAR New Name: ARAVIND (Given Name) SANTHOSH KUMAR (Surname) Henceforth I shall be known as ARAVIND SANTHOSH KUMAR. Date: 18/03/2026

I, O B ANAND BABU, S/o OBLA BALASWAMI BABU alias O B BABU, residing at No. D-804 Urban Forest Apt, Channasandra O Farm Main Road, Channasandra, Kadugodi, Bangalore 560067, Karnataka, India, changed my name from O B ANAND BABU to ANANDBABU BABU OBLA vide affidavit dated 08.04.2025, sworn before Notary, ANAND KUMAR J. Henceforth, I shall be known as ANANDBABU BABU OBLA for all purposes.

I, MADIGA RAMA MOHAN S/o. Mutyala Ramanjaneyulu, Residing at: No.41, Balaji Nilaya, 1st Floor, 3rd A Main Road, OMBR Layout, Chikka Banaswadi, Bangalore-560043 have changed my name to MUTYALA RAMAMOHAN vide Affidavit dt 18.03.2026 before notary B.Seshagiri,B'luru

I, DAISY DEVA KUMARI W/o Deva Anand S S, Residing at Flat No. A-41, 4th Floor, Ranka Aqua Greens, Harsha Layout, Kengeri, Bangalore-560060 have changed my name to DAISY DEVA ANAND vide Affidavit dated 16.03.2026 sworn before notary Ravi, Bengaluru

I, Monesh Gupta S/o Subhash Chandra Gupta, R/o Plot No 326, Dollars Colony Phase 2C, Gattahalli, Huskur, Bengaluru 560099, have chan -ged my name from Manesh Gupta to Monesh Gupta. I shall henceforth continue to be known as Monesh Gupta for all purposes.

I, MD IRFAN REZA QUADRI QUADRI S/O, MD HARUN RASHID RESIDING AT 4, GROUND FLOOR, 9TH CROSS ROAD, DEFENCE ACCOUNTS EMPLOYEES LAYOUT, B. N A R A Y A N P U R A , M A H A D E V A P U R A , KARNATAKA, BANGALORE 560016 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MD IRFAN REZA QUADRI QUADRI TO MD IRFAN REZA QUADRI VIA A F F I D A V I T N O . I N - KA10200520375843Y DATE 17/03/2026 SWORN BEFORE NOTARY: ANAND KUMAR .J.

LOST & FOUND

I, Supraja Reddy L , D/o Madhusudhan Reddy L, hereby inform that my original marks card and pass certificate of class 10 issued by CISCE bearing Unique ID : 8270062 has been lost. Year of passing - 2024 School name - Sharada residential school I request anyone who finds the above-mentioned document to kindly return it to the undersigned at the address given below. If not found, I will proceed to apply for a duplicate marks card from the concerned authority. Contact Details: Name: Supraja Reddy L Address: 29/2A2B Shree Lakshmi Nilaya , Purva Belmont gate, Jarganahalli, Kanakapura main road , JP Nagar post -560111 Phone: 9972368666 Date: 18/03/2026

tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

CAUTION NOTICE Number of suits are pending against 'Prestige Southern Star' apartment project at Begur. In order of O.S. 2150/2007 by Bangalore Rural District Court, t h e c o - d e v e l o p e r H.R.Ravichandra is declared as NOT a Bonafide Purchaser; even then Tower 1, Building 2 is getting constructed on our land at Sy No. 352/5, Begur village. R.F.A. No. 2119/2025 is pending in High Court of Karnataka. On 05.03.2026, the High Court of Karnataka has o r d e r e d a c r i m i n a l investigation into the illegal demolition of our temple, house etc.. on the said lands in FIR No. 0122/2025 against a Director of Prestige company a n d c o - p r o m o t e r , H.R.Ravichandra. Prospective purchasers can purchase at their own risk and cost. S d / - M u n i s w a m y No. 1115, near Anjaneya swamy temple, Begur, B'lore-68

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client ('Client') is desirous of entering into a sale transaction in connection with the immovable properties morefully described in the 'Schedule' hereunder and is hereinafter referred to as the 'Schedule Properties' with Mrs. Girija Ramegowda, wife of Late Ramegowda, residing at Bengaluru ('Owner'). The Owner has represented to our Client that the Owner is the sole and absolute owner of the Schedule Properties, with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owner, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties is/ are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Properties or their objections, if any, to the aforementioned sale transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof of such claim/s or objections, so as to reach us at the address given below within a period of 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received within the said period of 15 (fifteen) days, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owner has/ have any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties. Further any claims or alleged interests, if any, which are not received within the said period of 15 (fifteen) days shall be deemed to have been consciously waived and disregarded for all intents and purposes and shall thereafter not be binding on our Client and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the said sale transaction in connection with the Schedule Properties.

SCHEDULE
(Description of the Schedule Properties)

All that piece and parcel of immovable properties being agricultural lands and measuring in total 06 Acres 39 Guntas/28,226.81 Square Metres, all situated at Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and described in the table below:

THINDLU VILLAGE

Sl No.	Survey No./ E-Khata No.	Extent	Boundaries
1.	122/3/ 1502001022001 24698	10,521.82 Square Metres/02 Acres 24 Guntas	East by : Properties bearing Survey Nos. 122/1 and 122/2; West by : Properties bearing Survey Nos. 308/2 and 308/3 of Sarjapur Village; North by : Property bearing Survey No. 123/2; and South by : Bagalur Road- Bangalore Main Road.
2.	123/2/15020010 2200124700	3,136.31 Square Metres/31 Guntas	East by : Remaining portion of property bearing Survey No. 123/2; West by : Property bearing Survey No. 308/2; North by : Property bearing Survey No. 123/1; and South by : Property bearing Survey No. 122/1.

SARJAPURA VILLAGE

Sl No.	Survey No./ E-Khata No.	Extent	Boundaries
1.	308/2/15020010 2300122804	6,373.80 Square Meters/ 01 Acre 23 Guntas	East by : Properties bearing Survey Nos. 122/1 and 123/2 of Thindlu Village; West by : Property bearing Survey No. 309; North by : Property bearing Survey No. 308/1; and South by : Property bearing Survey No. 308/3.
2.	308/3/15020010 2300122802	8,194.88 Square Meters/ 02 Acres 01 Gunta	East by : Property bearing Survey No. 122/1; West by : Property bearing Survey No. 309/3; North by : Property bearing Survey No. 308/2;and South by : Bagalur-Bangalore Main Road.

Date: 19.03.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Ms. Brijita Prakash,
Partner
J. Sagar Associates,
Advocates & Solicitors, 18th Floor, SKAV 909, No. 9/1, Residency Road, Richmond Circle, Bengaluru – 560025, Karnataka, India. Ph. 080-43503600/080-43503676
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HACK OF THE DAY **TURN STUDY MATERIAL INTO A PODCAST OR QUIZ**

WHAT IT SOLVES: Helps students, job seekers, and professionals learn from PDFs, websites, notes, and slides while commuting, walking, or doing chores

WHAT TO DO: Use the NotebookLM mobile app to generate Audio Overviews, flashcards, and quizzes from your own study material

STEPS:

1. **Open** the NotebookLM mobile app
2. **Create** a notebook and add sources such as PDFs, websites, or notes
3. **Go to** the Studio panel
4. **Generate** an Audio Overview, quiz, or flashcards from the sources
5. **Choose** a preferred language and customize the output if needed

NOTE: This is one of the best AI study hacks right now. It turns passive documents into active revision material

SCAN FOR MORE

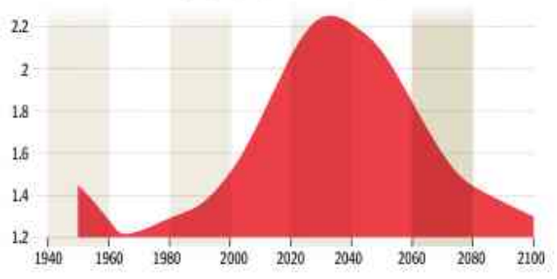
Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

India now has twice as many working-age people as dependents

In the 1960s, India had 20% more working-age people than dependents (below the age of 15 and above 64). That share has significantly gone up and is expected to peak around 2030, after which the share of working-age people will fall relative to dependents

India's working-age population to dependent ratio



Source: State of Working India Report, 2026

India's child deaths down sharply but are still a worry: UN

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesofindia.com

Country's under-five mortality rate has declined from 127 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 27 in 2024, marking a sharp improvement

New Delhi: India has made significant progress in reducing child deaths over the past three decades, but deaths among newborns are a cause for concern, the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNIGME) Report 2025 shows.

The country's under-five mortality rate has declined from 127 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 27 in 2024, marking a sharp improvement in child survival. Since 2000, the rate has fallen from 92 to 26.6, a decline of about 71%.

"India has emerged as a leading global exemplar in reducing child mortality, with neonatal deaths down nearly 70% and under-five mortality falling by 79% since 1990," Union health minister Jagat Prasad Nadda said in a post on X, attributing the gains to sustained investments in maternal and child health.

However, progress in reducing deaths among newborns has been slower. Neonatal mortality has dropped from 43.8 per 1,000 live births in 2000 to 16.7 in 2024, a reduction of about 62%. This gap means that newborns now account for the largest share of child deaths. Of the total under-five mortality rate of 26.6, about 16.7 deaths per 1,000 live births occurred in the first month of life in 2024, indicating that nearly two-thirds of child deaths are concentrated in this period.

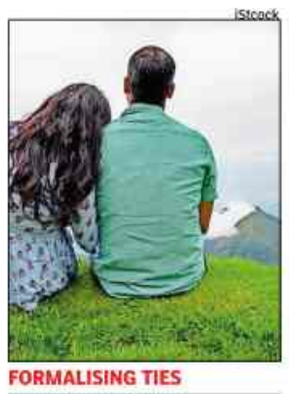
"Most child deaths in India are now concentrated in the first month of life because this is the most fragile phase. Conditions like premature birth, birth asphyxia and infections are major causes, and gaps in care—such as missed high-risk pregnancies, poor monitoring during delivery and lack of trained staff—further increase the risk. Improving the quality of care during pregnancy, childbirth and the first few days after birth is critical to saving more lives," said Dr Arvind Kumar, principal director and head of paediatrics, Fortis Hospital, Shalimar Bagh.

In absolute terms, India records around 5.4 lakh under-five deaths annually, of which newborns account for nearly 3.9 lakh. Deaths among older children have declined more rapidly due to improvements in immunisation, nutrition and disease management. The data also shows that India's under-five mortality declined at an average rate of about 3.6% per year between 1990 and 2024, with faster reductions seen after 2000.

Guj goes U'khand way, to make registration of live-ins must

Draft UCC Bill Proposes Ban On Polygamy

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



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FORMALISING TIES

Gandhinagar: The Gujarat Uniform Civil Code 2026 Bill got the state cabinet's approval on Wednesday, a day after a five-member judicial committee constituted to assess the need for UCC submitted a draft, recommending a common legal framework on marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, and equal rights for women, with exemptions for STs.

The bill, forwarded to the assembly secretariat for introduction, makes it obligatory for live-in partners to register with the district registrar concerned. Termination of a live-in relationship must also be formally notified. A child born out of a live-in relationship shall be a legitimate child of the couple. A woman deserted by her live-in partner will be entitled to claim maintenance, says the bill. It also makes registration of marriages and divorces compulsory, with penalties of up to Rs 10,000 for non-compliance.

Under provisions of the bill, polygamy has been banned, and a person found guilty of violating the rule will be liable for imprisonment of up to 7 years.

Marriages performed through force or coercion will attract both fine and imprisonment of up to 7 years.

The bill makes it lawful for a couple to remarry after they have been divorced without any conditions. Sources say this refers to the practice of 'halala'. Persons found violating the provisions are liable for imprisonment of up to 3 years and a fine of Rs 1 lakh.

Dwelling on the issue of succession, the bill has categorised heirs in three classes if a person dies intestate: class 1 heirs include spouse, children, and parents; class 2 heirs include step-parents and grandparents; and third category of other relatives.

Maharashtra passes bill for leopard relocation

Mumbai: Faced with a rising leopard population in Maharashtra, the state assembly on Wednesday passed an amendment to the Wildlife Protection Act 1972, which transfers permission for the capture and relocation of the predator from the Centre to the state govt, **reports Priyanka Kakodkar.** The Maharashtra Protection (Maharashtra Amendment) Act 2026, was introduced to prevent delays in capture of leopards since many have entered human settlements, resulting in man-animal conflicts. The bill does not permit killing of leopards.

"The leopard population in Maharashtra has gone up four-fold in the last ten years. Many of them now live in sugarcane fields. In the last 5-6 months, numbers have gone up in Pune, Nashik and Ahilyanagar," said forest minister Ganesh Naik, introducing the bill in the assembly. "It's important to relocate them urgently to prevent a man-animal conflict. The process of seeking permission from the Centre causes bureaucratic delays," said Naik.

Ex-SC judge backs Nirav's extradition case in London

Naomi Canton

London: Former SC judge Justice (retired) Deepak Verma gave evidence in favour of wanted jeweller Nirav Modi at the high court on Tuesday when Nirav sought to "reopen" his extradition appeal.

Despite a sovereign assurance from the Indian govt that Nirav will not be interrogated by the CBI, ED, or any other investigating agency if extradited to India, both Verma and Nirav's former counsel in India, Ashul Agarwal, disputed this, saying Nirav was highly likely to be interrogated by these agencies as "these are independent agencies not bound by direction from central govt".

Nirav, who lost his appeal against extradition in Nov 2022, filed an application to reopen his appeal based on the judgment handed down to defence middleman Sanjay Bhandari in Feb 2025, which prevented Bhandari's extradition to India on grounds that he would be at risk of torture when interrogated by the investigating agencies in India. Nirav claimed he would face the same risk of torture and that this was compelling new evidence.

Verma and Agarwal said Nirav was at risk of being interrogated by the DRI, the income-tax authorities, the SFIO, as well as CBI and ED, once in India. "India claims its sovereign assurance is binding on all agencies, but Agarwal and Verma deny that," Edward Fitzgerald KC, representing Nirav, told the court.

Col Purohit's retirement on hold till a decision on promotion plea

Surendra.Singh @timesofindia.com

The tribunal asked Union govt to explain why directives should not be issued to consider Col Purohit's case for promotion and grant of all service benefits on a par with batchmates or subordinates

New Delhi: In a reprieve for Colonel (time scale) Prasad Shrikant Purohit, the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) has directed that his retirement be kept in abeyance until a decision is taken on his statutory complaint seeking consideration for promotion and other service benefits following his acquittal in the 2008 Malegaon blast case. He was due to retire on Mar 31.

A bench comprising AFT chairperson Justice Rajendra Menon and administrative member Rasika Chaube passed the order while hearing a plea filed by the officer seeking promotion to the rank of colonel and thereafter to brigadier. Invoking the tribunal's jurisdiction under Section 14 of Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007, Purohit said he was denied promotions while facing a criminal trial after his arrest in 2008.

In its order passed on Mar 16, the tribunal issued notices to the Union govt and other respondents, asking them to explain why directives should not be issued to consider the officer's case for promotion and grant of all consequential service benefits on a par with his batchmates or subordinates.

A source in the Army told **TOI**, "Indian Army will examine the judgment and thereafter take action as per policy provisions." Explaining the 'colonel (time scale)' rank, the source said, "In the service bracket of 15-18 years, Lt Colonels are considered for promotion (by a promotion board). Around 30-50% of Lt Colonels become colonels. Once these Lt Colonels complete 26 years of service and also have an impeccable service (record), they are given the rank of colonel (time scale). Purohit completed 26 years of service long ago. Since he was facing disciplinary action and vigilance ban, he was given the colonel (time scale) rank only after his acquittal."

"Prima facie, we find a case is made out where the applicant may be right in contending he is entitled to be considered for the grant of promotion and all other service benefits at par with his juniors, which were denied to him," the AFT said. It further said the officer's claim that he was "implicated in the case in an illegal, fabricated manner" appeared to have been established by the criminal court. The matter will be heard again on May 22.

Farm labourer who once earned ₹5 a day to now speak at Oxford on 'AI for every mind'

Viraj.Deshpande@timesofindia.com

Once a daily wager, Ravindra Metkar, 57, from Masla in Amravati dist, will speak on sustainable agricultural practices at AI conference at Oxford

Metkar has been invited to speak on sustainable farming, cost optimisation, climate-resilient practices and poultry entrepreneurship at the Global Research Conference centred on the theme 'AI For Every Mind'

Nagpur: Ravindra Metkar once earned Rs 150 a month working in a pharmacy. That was in 1984, when he was still a teenager. The 57-year-old farmer from Masla village in Maharashtra's Amravati district will be travelling to an international conference on AI at Oxford University in the UK next month to share the story of how he built a Rs 15-crore agricultural enterprise from an acre of land, powered by a resolve not to pay for the fertiliser he could make himself.

Metkar has been invited to speak on sustainable farming, cost optimisation, climate-resilient practices and poultry entrepreneurship at the Global Research Conference centred on the theme "AI For Every Mind", scheduled from May 1 to 5 at Said College, Oxford.

"My father was a Grade 4 state govt employee. Life was tough," he said.

After doing his master's in commerce at Amravati University, Metkar's first break came in 1994 when relatives gave his family four acres of land. They sold it and bought an acre in Bhandara district. "I realised early on that a farmer cannot control market prices, but can reduce input costs and improve yield. That's when I started making my own fertilisers," he said.

Metkar turned that principle into a model. Today, he farms nearly 50 acres in his native village, growing mangoes, mosambi, amla, bananas, betel nut and grains. He also runs a poultry farm where locally produced feed has replaced commercial products and farm waste cycles back as fertiliser. "I have guided over 50 lakh farmers across the country and shared my techniques with them," he said. "They feel inspired by my agricultural enterprise. If I can achieve a turnover of Rs 15 crore, so can they."

Non-Hindus must file affidavit for darshan: Badri-Kedar committee

Kautilya.Singh @timesofindia.com

Dehradun: Non-Hindus, regardless of their background, will be allowed darshan at Badrinath and Kedarnath only if they submit an affidavit "affirming their faith in Sanatan Dharma", Badri Kedar Temple Committee chief Hemant Dwivedi said Tuesday, even as BKTC announced a ban on entry of non-Hindus at the two shrines and 45 other temples under its jurisdiction in Garhwal.

Asked about Bollywood actor **Sara Ali Khan**, who often visits Kedarnath, he said, "If she says that she has belief in Sanatan and submits an affidavit, we will allow her for darshan." Dwivedi added affidavits would be made available at the temples.

"Sanatan Dharma is vast, and its followers are present across the world. If any person, irrespective of background, expresses faith in Sanatan Dharma and submits an affidavit to that effect, darshan can be allowed at Badrinath and Kedarnath. All those who have faith in Sanatan Dharma are Sanatanis."

BKTC is the administrative body for Badrinath, Kedarnath and 45 other key temples in Uttarakhand. Dwivedi said the guidelines were laid down by Adi Shankaracharya and had been followed since then. "Tourism and religious tourism are the backbone of the state's economy. Unfortunately, some are unable to distinguish between the two. We need to ensure norms and traditions are followed during pilgrimage."

BKTC has also announced a ban on photos and videos on temple premises. This year's Char Dham yatra is set to begin April 19.

Relief for Staines murder convict Odisha board call

Bhubaneswar: The Supreme Court on Wednesday deferred hearing on the remission plea of Dara Singh, who is serving a life term for the murder of Australian missionary Graham Staines, to May 13, after Odisha govt said the state sentence review board will examine his case and take a decision soon, **reports Ashok Pradhan.**

Advocate general Pitambar Acharya, appearing for the state, said a bench of Justices Manoj Misra and Manmohan was told Odisha govt has sought reports from the prison authorities as well as the administration and police of Uttar Pradesh's Etawah district, Singh's native place. "Board will take an appropriate decision after that," he said.

Singh has been in jail for more than 26 years. He was arrested on Jan 31, 2000. Mahendra Hembram, a co-convict, walked out of prison in April last year. On Jan 21, 2011, SC had upheld their life imprisonment for burning alive Staines and his two minor sons in 1999.

Meta moves HC against CCPA order over walkie-talkie listing

Abhinav.Garg@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Meta Platforms, earlier known as Facebook, has moved Delhi High Court seeking a stay on a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) order imposing Rs 10 lakh penalty on it for the alleged unauthorised sale and listing of walkie-talkies on Facebook Marketplace.

Unlike Amazon and Flipkart, Facebook is not an e-commerce platform but merely a "notice board" on which CCPA has no "jurisdiction", senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Meta, argued. He contended that Facebook neither provides a mechanism for sale and purchase nor charges any commission from users. Facebook Marketplace is a free service designed exclusively for natural persons to sell or exchange goods in a personal capacity; businesses and commercial sellers are not allowed to create listings, he added.

Justice Purushaindra Kumar Kaurav Wednesday listed Meta's petition for hearing on March 25, asking it to explain how the order could be termed "without jurisdiction" and pointed out the company must also answer why the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission cannot consider the issue.

In its order passed in Jan this year, CCPA had held that Meta violated the Consumer Protection Act and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules by allegedly permitting walkie-talkie listings on Facebook Marketplace without mandatory disclosures. CCPA directed Meta to ensure that no walkie-talkies or any other product requiring statutory approval/certification is listed, hosted, advertised or sold on its platform without full compliance with applicable laws and mandatory disclosures. It also ordered Meta to periodically undertake a self-audit to check deceptive listings and publish a certificate of such self-audit on its website in the public and consumer interest.

JALGAON CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, JALGAON

E-Tender Notice No. 649
Extension no. 2

Jalgaon City Municipal Corporation, Jalgaon invites e-tender for the selection of agency to provide bus Conductors for daily operations of E-Buses in Jalgaon city and area. The detailed tender documents are available at https://mahatenders.gov.in

Date 19/03/2026

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(Dnyaneshwar Dhere)
Commissioner,
Jalgaon City Municipal Corporation, Jalgaon

UTTARAKHAND CIVIL AVIATION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION) (GOVERNMENT OF UTTARAKHAND)
SAHASTRADHARA HELIDROME, P.O. KULHAN, DEHRADUN- 248001, UTTARAKHAND
EMAIL: UCADADOON@GMAIL.COM; WEBSITE: WWW.UCADA.IN

Ref.: 3038/UCADA/2026 DATE: 18/03/2026

RE-TENDER NOTICE

Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA) Dehradun invites proposals from eligible aviation agency(s) to submit their proposals/bids for the following packages.

S. No.	Name of Package	Date of Start of downloading the document	Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	Last Date of submission of bids
1.	REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR SELECTION OF HELICOPTER SHUTTLE SERVICE OPERATORS FOR MANDAKINI VALLEY TO SHRI KEDARNATH JI ROUTE Ref. No.: (3036/RFB/SHUTTLE/UCADA/2026)	19/03/2026	21/03/2026	26/03/2026

Details can be obtained from the website www.uktenders.gov.in and/or www.ucada.in from 18/03/2026, 03:00 PM. The proposal must be submitted online on the portal, www.uktenders.gov.in only. Note:- 1. The corrigendum for the above packages will be uploaded on website www.uktenders.gov.in &/or www.ucada.in, 2. Email Id ucadadoon@gmail.com cc to ucadahoo@gmail.com & procurement.ucada@gmail.com may be contacted for any information., 3. Bidders who have applied earlier, their EMDs shall be considered for this re-tender, subject to validity and terms of the tender conditions.

CEO, UCADA

RAICHUR URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, RAICHUR

No: RUDA/TECH/CA/ALLOT/12/2025-26/ 1311 DATE: 17-03-2026

Time Extended Notification for Civic Amenity Sites Allotment:

Karnataka Urban Development Authorities (Civic Amenities Allotment) Rules 1991 U/s 3(3)

The Raichur Urban Development Authority has invited applications for allotment of CivicAmenity Siteson on the basis of 30 years Lease Agreement available in the approved private layouts of its project area to Central Government / State Government Organizations, Aided Government Organizations and Eligible Trusts/Societies/ Organizations with last date of application submission on 11-03-2026 and some official circumstances the last date is extended for inviting the application

- The prescribed application form can be obtained at the office of the authority by payment of Rs.1,000/- The completec application form shcuic be submitted to the Commissioner, Raichur Urban Development Authority, Raichur or or before Date: 25-03-2026 at 05-30 pm. Subsequent applications or applications that have not been filled properly will be rejected without consideration. • Further information / details can be made to the Office of the Authority during office hours and has been published to the Index.

Sd/- Commissioner, Urban Development Authority, Raichur.
Sd/- Chairman, Urban Development Authority, Raichur.

DIPR/RCR/773/KSMCA/775/2025-26

ಆಹಾರ, ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಹಕ ವ್ಯವಹಾರಗಳ ಇಲಾಖೆ,

ಆಯುಕ್ತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ನಂ.8, ಕನ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಹ್ಯಾಂ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಿಎಫ್ಎಸ್/ಐಟಿ-04/ಆರ್ಟಿ-ಟೆಂಡರ್/103/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:18.03.2026

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನೋಟಿಫಿಕೇಷನ್

2024-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಸಗಟು ಮತ್ತು ಚಿಲ್ಲರೆ ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆಗೆ ಆಸಕ್ತ ಅರ್ಹ ಬಿಡ್ದುದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **ರಾಜ್ಯದ 11 ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು "ಎಫ್.ಸಿ.ಐ. ಗೋದಾಮುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಟಿ.ಎ.ಪಿ.ಸಿ.ಎಂ.ಎಸ್./ ಕೆ.ಎಫ್.ಪಿ.ಎಸ್./ಇತರೆ ಸಗಟು ಗೋದಾಮುಗಳಿಂದ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮೂಲಕವಾಗಿ ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಸದರಿ ಗೋದಾಮುಗಳಿಗೆ ಆನ್ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಮತ್ತು "ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಗೋದಾಮುಗಳಿಂದ ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ರಸ್ತೆ ಮೂಲಕವಾಗಿ ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿ ನ್ಯಾಯಬೆಲೆ ಅಂಗಡಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಆನ್ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು** ಆಯುಕ್ತರು ಜ್ಞಾಪನ ಪತ್ರ ನೀಡಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್-2026ರ ಅವಧಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಆಹಾರ, ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಹಕ ವ್ಯವಹಾರಗಳ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಆಸಕ್ತ ಬಿಡ್ದುದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್ಸೈಟ್ **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ರಿಂದ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:18.03.2026 ರಿಂದ 02.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30ರವರೆಗೆ** ಡೌನ್ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಪ್ರೀ-ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.03.2026ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ,** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ (ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು): **02.04.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ,** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ (ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) : **04.04.2026ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ,** ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ (ಆಯುಕ್ತರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ) : **10.04.2026ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.**

ಟೆಂಡರ್ದಾರರು ಸಗಟು ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ **ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.4.00 ಲಕ್ಷ (ರೂ. ನಾಲ್ಕು ಲಕ್ಷ ಮಾತ್ರ)** ಮತ್ತು ಚಿಲ್ಲರೆ ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.2.00 ಲಕ್ಷ (ರೂ. ಎರಡು ಲಕ್ಷ ಮಾತ್ರ)** ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ಲಾಟ್ಫಾರಂ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಾವತಿಸುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ದಾರರು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಅನ್ವಯ ಪ್ರೋಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ವೆಚ್ಚವನ್ನು ಪಾವತಿಸುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಒಪ್ಪುವ ಸಮಿತಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಯಾವುದೇ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ರದ್ದುಪಡಿಸುವ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಡಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿದೆ. ಇತರೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ನಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಐಟಿ & ಜಾಗೃತಿ)
ಆಹಾರ, ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು
ಗ್ರಾಹಕ ವ್ಯವಹಾರಗಳ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ಪಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಪಾಪ್ರ/ಚಿಎ/6341/2025-26

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders have been invited through the KPP portal for the appointment of Consultants to obtain EC from SEIAA and CFE from KSPCB for the following projects.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Notification No.
1.	Construction of 2 Basement+G+13 Multi Storied Apartment including Club House, Swimming Pool, Gym, Library, Indoor Games & other allied works in Sy.No. 205 at Kengeri Bundemutt KHB Layout, Bengaluru Urban District.	KHB/CE/Multi-Storeyed Apartment-Kengeri/KHB/2025-26/SE0366, Date: 16-03-2026
2	Proposed for Construction of Residential Layout, High rise Apartment & Group Housing at Sy.Nos. 21/1 & Others of Chunchanakuppe Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.	KHB/CE/MOEF/Chunchunakuppe/KHB/2025-26/SE0367, Date: 16-03-2026

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF BID: 30-03-2026 UP TO 4.00 PM

For further information, contact below mentioned Office Address:
Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.
Telephone No.: 080-22273511. Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CP/YC/6354/2025-26 Sd/- Executive Engineer, KHB, Bengaluru

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EMI ₹2,654

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EMI ₹2,679

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EMI ₹2,918

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EMI ₹3,508

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EMI ₹4,999

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EMI ₹4,990

Godrej
600L SIDE BY SIDE REFRIGERATOR

EMI ₹5,653

FREE: PREETHI MIXER GRINDER WORTH ₹4,245*

BOSCH
334 LTR FROST FREE REFRIGERATOR

EMI ₹3,791

FREE: BUTTERFLY PRESSURE COOKER WORTH ₹3,315*

Whirlpool
308 LTR FROST FREE REFRIGERATOR

EMI ₹2,854

FREE: PREETHI INDUCTION COOKTOP WORTH ₹4,470*

Haier
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EMI ₹1,908

FREE: PHILIPS TOASTER WORTH ₹1,895*

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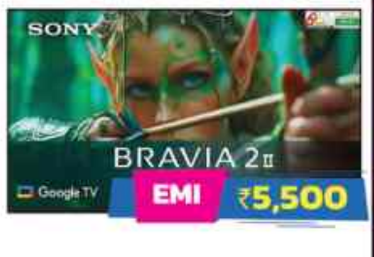
65 4K QLED SMART LED TV QN65Q7FAAFXZA

EMI ₹6,990

SONY
55 4K ULTRA HD SMART LED TV K-55S25M2



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EMI ₹1,141 MRP ₹21,990

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तिलक मार्ग, राजस्थान, जयपुर फोन न. 0141-2225736 E-Mail D: cemhraj@gmail.com

No. 5831 Date : 10.03.2026

E-NIT No- 03/2025-26 on EPC MODE

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से भवन निर्माण कार्य हेतु उपर्युक्त श्रेणी में राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत सगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग,//डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग / रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के ए, एए श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र मे भवन निर्माण कार्य के लिए EPC Mode पर ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से ऑन लाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है।

कुल कार्यों की संख्या	12
निविदा की कुल लागत (राशि रू. लाख में)	37800.00
ऑनलाईन निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तिथि	18 मार्च 2026 से 08 अप्रेल 2026 सायं 6:00 बजे तक
ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की तिथि	09 अप्रेल 2026 पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेब साईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in व https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर ऑनलाइन सम्पादित की जावेगी।

UBN:-

S.No.	UBN Number	S.No.	UBN Number	S.No.	UBN Number
1	MHS2526WLOB07367	5	NRH2526WLOB02770	9	NRH2526WLOB02767
2	NRH2526WLOB02765	6	NRH2526WLOB02771	10	NRH2526WLOB02763
3	NRH2526WLOB02766	7	NRH2526WLOB02768	11	NRH2526WLOB02769
4	NRH2526WLOB02772	8	MHS2526WLOB07358	12	NRH2526WLOB02764

Sd/-
मुख्य अभियंता
चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य, राजस्थान, जयपुर

DIPR/C/5430/2026

Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society
(An Organisation of Govt. of Karnataka)
No. 8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560 052

No:KREIS/EE-1/Tender-27/2025-26 Date:18.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Only)

The tenders have been invited for Construction of (Sc) Dr B.R Ambedkar Residential School Complex at Megunda, Chikkamangalore District and Civil Repair works in the Jurisdiction of KREIS **(Tender Indent No. 605, 430/Call-2, 746/Call-2 and 788/Call-2)** through e-Portal vide website: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 18.03.2026. The last date for receipt of tender is 17.04.2026 and 02.04.2026 respectively. The details may be viewed at above website.

Note: Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-procurement portal only.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer-1
KREIS, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/6345/CCL/2025-26

Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board
Kalyana Suraksha Bhavana, ITI Compound, Dairy Circle, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560029
Phone: 080-26753354/56, Email: karbuildworkerswelfare@gmail.com

No: KBOCWWB/NOTIFICATIONS/2025-26 Date:17-03-2026

e-tender Notification

Tender is hereby invited by Karnataka Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board from interested Agencies as per Terms and conditions described in the Bid document for below mentioned tender.

Supply and Installation Work of Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant at Transit Accommodation in **1.** Obadenahalli Industrial Area, Doddaballapura, Bengaluru Rural District. **2.** Devakattikoppa Industrial Area, Sidlipura Village, Shivamogga Taluk, Shivamogga District. **3.** Yamunapura Site at B.K Kangrali Industrial Area, Belagavi District. **4.** Badanaguppe-Kellamballi Industrial Area, Badanaguppe Village Kasaba Hobli Chamarajanagara Taluk, Chamaraja nagara district. **5.** KIADB Industrial Area Kapnur at Kalaburgi District. **6.** Plot 1,2,3&4/P2 & Plot no. 94 KIADB Industrial Area Nandur at Kalaburgi District.

Tender shall be submitted electronically through K.P.P.Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** of the Government of Karnataka. Last date of submission is as per K.P.P.Portal. For further details and information can be obtained from the Joint Secretary, KBOCWWB during office hours.

Sd/- Joint Secretary,
KB&OCWWB

DIPR/CP/6340/HITEC MEDIA/2025-26

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bangaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-01/82/2025-26/2851 Date: 18.03.2026

PUBLICATION

[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961]

Sri R.Narayana Swamy S/o B.K. Ramanjulu Naidu has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Residential"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No.55/1 extent of 01Acre-38G of **Kumbalagodu Gollahalli Village**, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for **Agriculture Zone** in approved Master Plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following:

1. By developing the layout in the said land, sites will be available at reasonable rates to General Public.
2. During the development works of the layout, there will be opportunity of employment to labourers.
3. Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the layout in the above said land.
4. By planned layout development the public are benefited with the civic amenities such as good roads, parks, etc.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary,
BMICAPA, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/6347/WA/25-26

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division, Thimmaiah Road, Queens Road, Bengaluru - 560052.

No: EE/SJN/E-PROC/26/2025-26 Date: 16-03-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (Shivajinagara Division), BCCC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of Works detailed below. **(Standard Tender Document - KW-4)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Construction of Stepped Gabion Seater near Waste Weir, Boating Area, Lake Observation Decks and Walkway Improvement in Ulsoor Lake. **Amount Put to Tender (without GST) (Rs. in Lakhs): 786.90, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 11,80,000.00**
2	Park Area Development, Construction of Seating Plaza, Civic Center and Other Finishing Works in Ulsoor Lake. **Amount Put to Tender (without GST) (Rs. in Lakhs): 787.20, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 11,80,000.00**

Calendar of Events: **1)** Tender Documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **24-03-2026 at 15.00 Hours in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Zone-2, BCCC, Annex-3, 4th Floor, GBA Office Compound, N.R. Square, Bengaluru. 3)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Tender Document is **30-03-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid is **01-04-2026 at 16.30 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **After Technical Bid Approved.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Shivajinagara Division, BCCC.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-3/TENDER/2025-26/8715 DATE: 17/03/2026

E-Tender/Re-Tender Notification (Call-1 & Call-2)

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise e-Tenders/Retender from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 1 work under head of account 2059-Buildings Maintenance and 2 works under head of account 4059-CMI DP, Totally 3 No. of works, Amount put to tender is minimum of Rs. 8.00 Lakhs and maximum of Rs. 150.29 lakhs.

Calendar of events:

1) Pre-bid meeting date: 30-03-2025 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2) Last date for queries & clarifications : 02-04-2026 up to 5.30 PM, 3) Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 04-04-2026 up to 5.00 PM, 4) Date of opening of Techrica bids (Two Cover System): 06-04-2026 at 4.30 PM, 5) Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bics", 6) If no bid received auto extension will be doneby e-procitself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.

BENGALURU-MYSURU INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No. 5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-03/109/2025-26/2849 Date: 18-03-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Sri Mahesh. L.S S/o Late L.S. Shivarudraiah has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Commercial"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No: **77/7** extent of 00 Acre - 30 Guntas of **Shivapura Village,** Kasaba Hobli, Maddur Taluk, Mandya District under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid land is reserved for **Agriculture Zone** in Approved Master Plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following:

1) By developing the Commercial Projects in the above said land, the General Publics will get Jobs.
2) During the development works of the Layout there will be opportunity of employment for labourers.
3) Surrounding areas will be developed by developing Commercial Project in the above said land.
4) By the development of Commercial area, the Government will get the Taxes in various forms.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his / her objection to **Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru** in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary,
B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/6353/Adverto/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಜಲಮಾಪನ ವಿಭಾಗ (ಭಾ.ಕ)
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: mibhly@yhoo.co.in ಫೋನ್ ನಂ: 08284-210113
ನಂ: ಕಾಸಿಇ/ಸಣ್ಣನೀರಾವರಿ/ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್/4705/2025-26/2614 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16/03/2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖರೀದಿ) ಕೆಸಟ್ಟ್ಯೂ-1,2&4 ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಿಜಿಸ್ಟ್ರೇಷನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿ ಪರವಾನಿಗೆ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಮಾರು ದರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖರೀದಿಕೆಗೆ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ-2000 ಮತ್ತು ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಂತೆ KW-1, 2 & 4 (ಟೈ-ಬಿಡ್ಡಿಂಗ್) ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ "ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ" ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

(1) ಇಇಪಿಎಲ್ ನಂ: 13492 (ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) (2) ಇಇಪಿಎಲ್ ನಂ: 13493 (ಎಸ್.ಎ) (3) ಇಇಪಿಎಲ್ ನಂ:10549 2ನೇ ಪಟ (CAT-I) (4) ಇಇಪಿಎಲ್ ನಂ: 11475 (ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ) (5) ಇಇಪಿಎಲ್ ನಂ:11476 (CAT-I A) (6) ಇಇಪಿಎಲ್ ನಂ: 11012 (ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ) (7) ಇಇಪಿಎಲ್ ನಂ: 11013 (ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ) (8) ಇಇಪಿಎಲ್ ನಂ: 11014 (ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ)

ಮೇಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪಾರಿಮಾಣವನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿ ಪರವಾನಿಗೆ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಮೆಚ್ಚಿಕೆ "https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in" ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18-03-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25-03-2026 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ನಿಯಮಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಷರತ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ಪರವಾನಿಗೆ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26-03-2026 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 05.15 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹಾಜರಾತಿಗೆ ಕಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ದರ್ಜನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27-03-2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 05.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ದರ್ಜನ್ನು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ದರ್ಜನ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಹಾರಾಟಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಕುರಿತ ಅಂತಿಮ ನಿರ್ಣಯಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಸಟ್ಟ್ಯೂ-1,2&4 ಪೆಂಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ರದ್ದುಪಡಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಮಿಸೂ: ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-, (ಆರ್. ಜಗದೀಶ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ಜಲಮಾಪನ ವಿಭಾಗ (ಭಾ.ಕ)

Govt of Karnataka
Executive Engineer, PRE. Division, Vijayanagara,
Annex Building, 2nd Floor, Back side of SP Office, Hosapete

No:EE/P.R.E/D/PB/Tender/PB/Dil heads/2025-26/1628
Dated:21.11.2025

Short term tender Notification.
(Through Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Executive Engineer P.R.E.Diva, Hosapete Vijayanagara district has invited the Works Min Rs.12.80Lakhs to Max Rs.300.00Lakhs works Invites Short -term tenders (TN:2056 , Dt:17.03.2026) as per KTPP-2000 act through e-procurement for the works category tenders in Vijayanagara Division under Different heads from the eligible agencies. According to the Standard Bid Document KW 1,2,3 & 4/ Service rules and regulations (As per updating in the KPPP) based on turn-key.

For Annexure-I : Probable date of tenders publishing: 18.03.2026 & Last date of tenders submission : 27.03.2026 (5.00PM). For Annexure-II : Probable date of tenders publishing: 20.03.2026 & Last date of tenders submission : 07.04.2026 (5.00PM)

(Auto Extension Specialty up to 4 Days after last date of tender)

Annexure I Indent Nos (Including Category works) Harpanahalli Taluk : 25478 & 25477 II B Halli Taluk :25619 & 25620, Hosapete Taluk : 22740/call-2, Hadagali taluk : 22962, 22961 & 22959 Kudligi : 25167, 25164, 25172, 25170, 25168, 25174, 25177 & other indents

Annexure II Indent Nos : Harapanahalli taluk : 23568, 23031 & 25330, Kudligi taluk : 25534

Corrigendum's / modifications / correction, if any, will be published in the website only & for more information contact to *https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in* website and this office (email ID: eeprdvjaynagara@gmail.com)

Sd/- KK.PRE.Diva Vijayanagara, Hosapete.

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No.602

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT
e-Procurement Tender Notice

e-Tenders were invited for supply of **1) 7,200 Kgs of Compounded Asafoetida (Bandhani Hing) Powder 2) 2,00,000 Nos of Laminated die Leaf Plates (Buffet Plates) 3) 22,000 Kgs of Groundnut seeds** through e-tenders to the Marketing Department, T.T.Devasthanams,. For Tender notice and tender details log on to the web site http:// www.tirumala.org and https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. For further details contact phone numbers: 0877-2264079, 2264555, FAX No: 0877-2264554.

TTD-40021/10/2025 - PRO SEC (Adv. No 439). Date - 18.03.2026 **Executive Officer**

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Tender Notice No.07/2025-26/CE(GVMC)/SE(Projects) / EE(PD-I) / DB/GVMC, Dt:18-03-2026

No. of Works	: 01 (One)
Downloading Starting Date	: 18.03.2026 @ 05.00 P.M
Downloading End Date	: 08-04-2026 @ 03.00 P.M
Last Date for Submission of bid	: 08.04.2026 @ 04.00 P.M
Further details at http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in	
O/o the Executive Engineer (PD-I) Division	Sd/- Commissioner, GVMC

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023, Telephone No.080-29557023 E-mail:cekhsdrp@gmail.com

No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-1/AE-2/Tnd/2025-26/4512 Date: 18.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible Class-I contractors registered in KPWD in two cover tender document system in KPP Portal for the following works.

Sl. No.	Description of works	Approx. Amount put to tender (Rs. In Lakh)	EMD (Rs. In Lakh)	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)
1	Construction of **300 Bedded Teaching Hospital** at **Puttur** Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District (Civil works).	13865.10	138.65	24 Months
2	Repair and Renovation of GIMS Medical College Girls Hostel & Boys Hostel in Kalaburagi (Toilet & Bathroom)	337.17	5.05	11 Months

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **17.04.2026 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **18.04.2026 at 16.01 hrs.**

The tender details can be downloaded from the KPP Platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Earnest Money Deposit and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the KPP Platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: (1) All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. **(2)** Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on KPP Portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru.

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY
#49, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560001
E-mail: dir-mines@karnataka.gov.in

No. DMG-17012/26/2025/2025-26 Dated: 18.03.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Department of Mines and Geology is calling tender for auction of seized generated iron ore fines under respective notification through MSTC.

Eligibility conditions, terms and conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Separate Lot wise auction notifications are published in MSTC portal. Tender Documents, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process of respective lots shall be available in electronic form only at the website of MSTC Ltd.

https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/aucsearch/search.jsp

The auction of generated iron ore fines for each lot is "AS IS WHERE IS AND NO COMPLAINT BASIS". The interested bidders shall ascertain the quantity and quality of the Iron ore before participation. The Department is not responsible for any dispute arising after confirmation of the bid.

Interested bidders may visit the MSTC Ltd website.

Sd/-
Director,
Department of Mines & Geology

DIPR/CP/6355/NR/2025-26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only Through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in two stage system from registered agencies for the following works:

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount
	Office of the Engineer-in Chief, 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.	
	IFT No. BWSSB/EIC/ACE(CS & DCW)/TA/9738/2025-26	**Date: 18.03.2026**
1	Work of modernization & remodeling of water supply system in Frazer Town-4 under AEE(C-1-2) Sub Division limits of BWSSB, Bangalore	₹ 377.65 Lakhs / ₹ 5.66 Lakhs
	IFT No. BWSSB/EIC/ACE(CS & DCW)/TA/9741/2025-26	**Date: 18.03.2026**
2	Work of modernization & remodeling of water supply system in Frazer Town-5 under AEE(C-1-2) Sub Division limits of BWSSB, Bangalore	₹ 375.02 Lakhs / ₹ 5.62 Lakhs

For the above works, last date and time for receipt of tenders: **03.04.2026** upto **16:00 Hrs**. The bid will be opened on: **04.04.2026** at **16:00 Hrs.** Sd/- Engineer-in-Chief

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/MIA/6337/2025-26

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ), ಸಿವಿಲ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಯ್ಯಾಜಿರಾವ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇ-ಮೇಲ್- eewmccmys@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ಪ)/ಸಾ.ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ-30/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.03.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಜಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
	ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು					
1	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ(ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್-84/ 2025-26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:13.03.2026	05	296.06	16.03.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	23.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ವರೆಗೆ	24.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಕ್ಕೆ
2	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ(ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್-85/ 2025-26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:16.03.2026	08	389.50	17.03.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	24.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ವರೆಗೆ	25.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಕ್ಕೆ
3	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ(ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್-86/ 2025-26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:16.03.2026	10	489.64	17.03.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	24.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ವರೆಗೆ	25.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಕ್ಕೆ
4	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ(ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್-87/ 2025-26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:17.03.2026	09	142.67	18.03.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	01.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ವರೆಗೆ	02.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಕ್ಕೆ
5	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ(ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್-88/ 2025-26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:17.03.2026	07	48.60	24.03.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	09.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ವರೆಗೆ	10.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಕ್ಕೆ
	Goods Tender (3 work) & Expression of Interest (1 work)					
6	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಹೆಚ್1/ಪಪಿ/101/2022-23, ದಿನಾಂಕ:17.03.2026	04	217.93	20.03.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	30.03.2026 & 06.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ವರೆಗೆ	01.04.2026 &07.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಕ್ಕೆ

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪ) ಸಿವಿಲ್ ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ/ಬದಲಾವಣೆ / ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/-ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/1855/ತಿರಡಿ ಸಾಂಪ/2025-26

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Tender Notice No.: DRMENGGRNC-15-2026, Dated: 17.03.2026. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), South Eastern Railway, Ranchi for & on behalf of President of India, invites e-Tender for the following works: **Sl.No.**-1. **Notice No.: DRMENGGRNC-15-2026. Name of work:** Construction of various types of buildings including barracks, quarters, Officers' Rest House, transit accommodation for officers, Subordinate Rest House, Multipurpose Hall at Hatia, service buildings, etc. in Ranchi Division. **Tender Value:** ₹ 52,19,56,314.35. **EMD Value:** ₹ 1,04,39,200/-. **Tender closing date & time:** 10.04.2026 at 15.00 hrs. Tenderers can visit the website **www.ireps.gov.in** for online tendering. (PR-1322)

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560064
web site: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

E - TENDER NOTICE No.: RWF/M&P/M/MMR/Fresh air ventilation/2025-26 dated: 16/03/2026

E - TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website http://www.ireps.gov.in (Works). **Sl.No.** 1 **Tender No.** RWF/M&P/M/MMR/Fresh air ventilation/ 2025-26 dated: 16/03/2026 **Name of the work** New cold and fresh air ventilation system at Mould room **Estimated Cost in Rs.** 1,48,50,000 **Bid Security (EMD) in Rs.** 2,24,300/- **Date & Time of Closing of Tenders** 20/04/2026 at 10.30 Hrs **Completion Period** 9 months

This tender notice can be viewed on our website **www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in**

DY. CME/W-II

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tender Notice No. CE-Con-RSP-01-2026, Chief Engineer/RSP & GS, S.E. Railway, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-700043 invites e-tenders for the following work. Following tender has been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in** & the tender will be closed at 15.00 hrs. on due date. **Brief Description of works** : Construction of full Road Over Bridge (ROB) of Track portion span of 1x60 m BSG including approaches with via-duct and Retaining wall between Railway Station (i) Amarda Road & Basta in lieu of LC No. 60 at Km 202/11-13, (ii) Amarda Road & Basta in lieu of LC No. 61 at Km 203/27-29. (iii) Soro & Sabira in lieu of LC No. 106 at km 265/33-35, (iv) Markona & Soro in lieu of LC No. 110 at Km 278/21-23 and (v) Ranital - Kuparai Road in lieu of LC No. 115 at 286/13-15 in Kharagpur-Bhadrak Section. **Approx. Cost :** ₹ 247.8 Crore. **Bid Security :** ₹ 1 Crore. **Period of Completion :** 24 months from the date of issue of LOA. Interested tenders may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/ description/specification of the tenders and submit their Bids online. In no case manual tenders for

'Very unusual': SC on Bengal CM 'obstructing' ED search

'Need Remedy To Prevent Such Clashes In Future'

AmitAnand.Choudhary
@timesofindia.com

File photo

ED alleged that during Jan 8 raid, Banerjee took away files & digital devices that impeded its probe

New Delhi: Referring to allegations that West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee had barged into a premises of political consultancy firm I-PAC where Enforcement Directorate was conducting a probe and prevented it from discharging its duty on Jan 8, Supreme Court Wednesday said it is very unusual, and remedy has to be explored to prevent such clashes in the future.

A bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and N V Anjaria stressed that the apex court had to intervene to decide on what was to be done in such a situation, while expressing apprehension that such incidents can happen in other states also.

"Because in this case, according to them, the chief minister barged into the office-...if Article 226 and Article 32 (regarding violation of fundamental rights) are also not maintainable, then who will decide? It is not a very happy situation. It is unusual and it did not happen earlier. Someday some other CM may enter into some other office...," the bench said.

SC said there cannot be a vacuum and there has to be some remedy for such a situation. The hearing, however, commenced on a serious note with a heated exchange of words between the bench and the state govt. A batch of lawyers appearing for the state, the CM and state officials made a concerted effort to get adjournment on the ground that ED's rejoinder affidavit mentioned new facts which needed to be responded to. But the bench rejected the plea after solicitor general Tushar Mehta said it was a tactic to delay the hearing as the rejoinder was filed four weeks ago.

Senior advocates Shyam Divan, Kapil Sibal, Siddharth Luthra and Menaka Guruswamy told the bench that it was not a normal rejoinder as it had several new averments that went beyond the scope of the petition.

The bench, however, told the advocates that they cannot dictate how the court should proceed. Divan responded that they were only requesting. When it was pointed out that ED had also sought adjournment, the bench said it is not battle for adjournment, and asked Divan to argue the case. The hearing went on for the day, and it would resume on March 24.

ED cannot claim 'fundamental right' to probe, West Bengal, CM tell SC

AmitAnand.Choudhary
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: West Bengal and its CM Mamata Banerjee has told Supreme Court that ED can't claim any "fundamental right" to probe a case, questioning the maintainability of the plea filed by ED and its officers against state govt, the CM and other officials for allegedly obstructing a search of political consultancy firm I-PAC.

They argued that allowing the writ petition by ED seeking the status of juristic entity to claim violation of its fundamental right to probe would demolish the federal structure of governance, as such pleas would be filed by different govt authorities against each other.

Mamata and the state told a bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and N V Anjaria that ED and other agencies — such as CBI, state CID and Serious Fraud Investigation Office — are not natural and legal persons who can seek writ remedies for violation of fundamental rights under Article 32 of the Constitution and that they can't sue a state.

Senior advocates Shyam Divan and Kapil Sibal, appearing for Bengal and the CM, respectively, said ED is just a govt dept and it would set a wrong precedent if one dept or govt is allowed to file a plea against another dept or govt for violation of fundamental rights. They urged SC that the issue be referred to a larger five-judge bench for authoritative adjudication as it would have wider implications for the federal structure, which is one of the basic features of the Constitution. India can't be turned into a unitary non-federal country, they said.

"No agency or officer can claim to have fundamental right to probe. I do not know how the issue of fundamental right comes into the picture. The officers have statutory rights and not fundamental rights. Their remedy is not in a writ petition but in BNS," Sibal submitted.

Divan said, "ED is not a juristic entity...it is nothing beyond a govt department. It does not have by itself any personality and the Article 32 petition is not maintainable. If it is allowed then a situation can arise where Article 32 is used by one department against another department, or between Centre and states. This would completely bypass the checks and balances embedded in the constitutional framework."

SC was hearing petitions filed by ED and its officers against state govt, the CM, then Kolkata Police commissioner and other state officials seeking CBI probe against them for not allowing them to discharge their duty while carrying out raids on Jan 8 at various places in Kolkata, including at I-PAC office, in connection with a money laundering probe linked to the coal 'scam' case.

As RS bids farewell to 59 MPs, PM says there's no full stops in politics

Times News Network

New Delhi: As the Rajya Sabha bid farewell to 59 MPs, PM Narendra Modi told the retiring members that there's no full stop in politics, while reserving special praise for the service and dedication of senior MPs like H D Deve Gowda, Sharad Pawar and leader of opposition Mallikarjun Kharge to the House.

Addressing the House, the PM said that when an occasion such as this arises, "naturally and spontaneously we rise above partisan differences, and a shared sentiment emerges within us all".

"In politics, there is no such thing as a full stop. The future awaits you as well, and your experience and contributions will forever remain an enduring part of our national life," said Modi.

Modi lauded the contribution of the retiring MPs, calling Parliament an open university and urging outgoing legislators to remain active in national life.

Modi made a special mention of Deve Gowda, Pawar and Kharge, calling them stalwarts who had spent more than half their lives in Parliament. "The manner in which they continue to attend the House with such dedication — a spirit from which all new parliamentarians ought to learn — is truly exemplary," he said.

What about farewell for Dhankhar: Cong

Congress's Jairam Ramesh took a swipe at govt in RS, saying while a farewell function for MPs retiring in the next three months was held, no such function has been organised for former chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, who was "compulsorily retired" last year. "I want to ask, when will you give farewell to the former chairman?" TNN

In love with us, married BJP: Kharge; marriage was abusive: Deve Gowda

Times News Network

New Delhi: Rajya Sabha on Wednesday witnessed some lighter moments when Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said former PM H D Deve Gowda was "in love" with Congress but "got married" to BJP. Deve Gowda, however, hit back, saying he was in a "forced marriage" with Congress and had to "divorce" as it was an "abusive relationship".

Speaking in the House during farewell to retiring members, leader of opposition Kharge said he has known Deve Gowda for the past 54 years and has worked closely with him. "However, I don't know what happened; he shared his love and affection with us but he tied the knot with Mr Modi (BJP). This happened quite recently, so I really do not know how you interpret it," he said when Deve Gowda was not in the House but PM Modi was present. Both Kharge and Deve Gowda are retiring and may return to RS.

Former prime minister and JDS president Deve Gowda's reaction came in a statement on X: "Here's my response both light-hearted and factual, on why I was forced to 'divorce' Congress."

"If I were to respond to my friend in the same language of marriage, I would like to say that I was in a 'forced marriage' with Congress but had to 'divorce' them because it was an abusive relationship," he said, referring to the post-assembly polls developments in Karnataka. "Congress's had insisted on HD Kumaraswamy's leadership (chief ministership)" but "in 2019, they dumped us", Deve Gowda said. "I did not desert the Congress alliance. It is they who walked away," he added

Temples also sell books and prasadam, says top court bench

▶ Continued from page 1

Appearing for the body which oversees administration, management and maintenance of Hindu religious institutions, temples and charitable endowments in TN, senior advocate Jaideep Gupta said industry must be a unit where the employer and employees collaborate to produce something for human need and it must have a commercial character or profit motive. "Can a temple be classified as an industry when there is no strike, lockout or retrenchment, which are the main subjects dealt with by the Act," he asked.

He said in Kerala, the Devaswom Board manages hundreds of temples from the surplus funds generated by three – Guruvayur temple, Sabarimala temple and the Padmanabhaswamy temple. "How the surplus money is used is a critical factor in determining whether an entity is a temple or not," he said, adding that corporate entities spending 2% of average net profit of the last three years on CSR (corporate social responsibility) would not make them a charitable organisation.

The bench, also comprising Justices B V Nagarathna, P S Narasimha, Dipankar Datta, Ujjal Bhuyan, S C Sharma, Joymalya Bagchi, Alok Aradhe and Vipul M Pancholi, said temples may be essentially for spiritual purposes, but they do also sell books and prasadam.

Gupta said most temples give the books free to propagate their religious ideology and the prasadam that they prepare is part of the spiritual experience. No one takes prasadam to mitigate hunger, he said. Other advocates complained that even goshalas, orphanages and destitute homes which carry out some activity to generate funds come under the 'industry' definition.

Opposing reconsideration of the 1978 definition of 'industry' crafted by a seven-judge bench, senior advocate Indira Jaising said the Industrial Dispute Act was to provide access to justice to workmen who were at the mercy of employers' 'hire and fire policy'.

Cabinet nod for ₹33,660cr plan to set up 100 industrial parks

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a Rs 33,660 crore scheme, Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA), to set up 100 fully built industrial parks across the country over the next six years, aiming to boost manufacturing by making it easier for them to start factories.

The parks, ranging from 100 to 1,000 acres (25 acres in hilly and northeastern states), will be developed with ready infrastructure, including roads, utilities and factory spaces, allowing companies to move quickly from planning to production. Officials said the scheme will be implemented through partnerships between the Centre, the states and private players, with states expected to take the lead in sponsoring projects. "We are expecting the state govt will be the primary sponsor for parks under the scheme... but the private sector can also come in for development," a govt official said. The Centre will provide support of up to Rs 1 crore per acre for roads, underground utilities and more. TNN

OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION LIMITED
Room No. 248, Rig Manager, Sagar Bhushan
ONGC Ltd., 11 HIGH, Bandra – Sion Link Road,
Mumbai – 400 017. Tel.: +91-22-2408 8249

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR LEASING/ CHARTERED HIRING OF ONGC OWNED RIG "MODU SAGAR BHUSHAN- IMO-8407266"

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from global E&P operators and offshore drilling contractors for leasing / chartered hiring of its drillship MODU Sagar Bhushan. The drillship is immediately available, fully equipped, and presents an excellent opportunity for companies looking to augment their offshore drilling fleet.

Start Date of EOI	18.03.2026
Last date for Submission of Expression of Interest document and confirmation by the firms for attendance on the day of EOI Meet	On or before 10.04.2026, 15:00 Hrs (IST)
Tentative EOI Meet Date	17.04.2026

For details of Expression of Interest (EOI) and other details, please logon to our website at **http://tenders.ongc.co.in**.

For any queries, please contact:

Uttam Prakash Hembram DGM (Drilling) Email: hembram_uttam@ongc.co.in	Soham Sengupta SE (Electrical) Email: sengupta_soham@ongc.co.in

VISVESVARAYA NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, NAGPUR-440010

Ph. D.(Full Time) and Ph.D.(Part Time) Admission Notification - July, 2026

Institute is offering admission in Ph.D. program in GATE and Non-GATE candidates in the areas of Engineering, Architecture and Sciences starting from July 2026. The details of various schemes, information brochure, application form(s) and guidelines as applicable for Ph.D. (Full Time) and Ph.D. (Part Time) admission will be available on Institute's website www.vnit.ac.in from (Cycle 1) 16th March 2026 & (Cycle 2) 01st May 2026. The last date of submission of application form is (Cycle 1) 17th April 2026 & (Cycle 2) 05th June 2026. Eligible candidates are invited to apply in the prescribed application form(s).

REGISTRAR

RAJIV GANDHI SUPER SPECIALITY HOSPITAL
(An Autonomous Institute under Govt. of NCT of Delhi)
TAHIRPUR, DELHI -110093
Telephone: 011-22890702 | Website : https://rgssh.delhi.gov.in

VACANCY NOTICE
ADVERTISEMENT NUMBER 02/2026

Applications are invited for the post of **Professor, Associate Professor & Assistant Professor** at Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital (RGSSH), an autonomous institute under Govt. of NCT of Delhi. For application form, details of the vacancies, pay scale, eligibility criteria, educational qualifications, experience required, age limit, terms and condition of appointment visit official website of RGSSH i.e. **https://rgssh.delhi.gov.in** or Delhi Govt. website i.e. **https://health.delhi.gov.in**.

Director & CEO, RGSSH

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0472/25-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per the powers vested U/S 3(D) (1) and (2) of National Highways Act 1956 (48 of 1956) with Amended Act of 1997, the Central Government has acquired lands specified below in Schedule, for Building (Widening/Four-laning, etc.), Maintenance, Management and Operation of Belgaum-Hungund-Raichur (NH-748A) in the stretch of land from Km. 182.300 to Km. 228.500 in the district of Bagalkot in the state of Karnataka. The Gazette Notification has been published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II of Section-3, Sub Section (1), under S.O. 1290(E) dated: 11.03.2026.

Under the provisions of the Sub Section (1), (2), (3) and (4) of Section 3G of National Highways Act 1956, the public notice is issued to the owners or interested persons of the lands to produce the following documents either in person or by an agent or by legal practitioner within 7 days from the date of this publication, along with written Statement in this following office address.

Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer, NHAI, Venktesh L. Benkatti, Plot No. L-16, Sector-3A, Near Kendriya Vidyalaya, Brundaavan Sector, Navanagar, Bagalkot.

1) Original records 2) Sale/Partition/Other Deeds of Titles 3) ROR of the present year 4) Receipt of Assessment paid and Khata 5) Copy of the Mutation Register and any other relevant documents.

Further the land owners have to give their expected amount of compensation with proof of justification. If anybody fails to produce the above documents along with written Statement to the undersigned within stipulated period, compensation will be awarded as per the records available in this office. Also, it is brought to notice of the owners of these property holders that they should not grow any further crops on land vested with Central Government as per aforesaid notification. In case any crops are grown or any structure construction are made, no compensation for this crop or structure will be paid.

Sd/-
Special land Acquisition Officer & CALA, NHAI, Bagalkot.

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल. 33004/99 REGD. NO. D.L.-33004/99

सत्यमेव जयते

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी. जी. - डी. एल. - अ. - 13032026-270904
CG-DL-E-13032026-270904
असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II - खण्ड-3 - उप-खण्ड-(ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 1233] नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, मार्च 11, 2026/फाल्गुन 20, 1947
No. 1233] NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026/PHALGUNA 20, 1947

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 11 March 2026

S.O. 1290(E). – Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, S.O. 4395(E) Dated:26 September 2025, published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening /four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of Belgaum-Hungund-Raichur NH-748A in the stretch of land from Km. 182.300 to Km. 228.500 in the village(s) namely-, Hireadapura , Hireshinganagutti , Nandavadagi Taluk-Ilkal in the district of BAGALKOT in the state of KARNATAKA.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "The Times of India" dated 07/10/2025 , "Vijayvani" dated 07/10/2025 ; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas the Competent Authority has received objections filed under Section 3-C, considered and settled the same appropriately;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Competent Authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the Competent Authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within the of Belgaum-Hungund-Raichur NH 748A in the stretch of land from Km. 182.300 to Km. 228.500 in the village(s) namely - Hireadapura, Hireshinganagutti, Nandavadagi Taluk-Ilkal in the district of BAGALKOT in the state of KARNATAKA.

[F. No. 5470E/3D]
SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

District: BAGALKOT
https://egazette.gov.in
Publication date: 11/03/2026
https://morth.gov.in/
https://bhoomirashi.gov.in/

Scan for notification in English and Hindi

Scan for Notification in Kannada (as Translated from English Notification)

Note : The physical copy of this notification is also available at the office of CALA/PIU/PMU/RO/ED and Landowners may also see the notification there.

Land Ports Authority of India
(A statutory body under Ministry of Home Affairs, Border Management-II, Government of India)

Appointment of Member (Planning & Development) in the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)

Applications are invited by the Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India to fill up the post of **Member (Planning & Development)** of the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI), under the Land Port Authority of India Act, 2010 (31 of 2010).

2. The details and other terms & conditions are available on the website of the Ministry of Home Affairs at **http://mha.gov.in** and **http://lpai.gov.in**

3. Last date for receiving applications is 13th April, 2026 (applications received after this date will not be considered).

4. Address for sending applications is as below:

Shri Ajay Kumar Sah,
Under Secretary (ICP),
Room No. 20,
2nd Floor, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium,
Department of Border Management,
Ministry of Home Affairs
New Delhi-110001.
Email- **aksah.sah@nic.in** CBC 19142/11/0020/2526

REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL LAND ACQUISITION OFFICER
BENGALURU URBAN DISTRICT
Vishveswaraiah Main Tower, 6th Floor, Bengaluru - 560001. Tel : 080-22860219,
E-Mail: slao.bangalore@gmail.com

No. SLAO/ADM/01/2025-26 **Date: 17.03.2026**

NOTIFICATION

Sub : Applications are invited from qualified candidates for the temporary appointment on outsourcing basis to obtain the services of Legal Consultants for the Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer, Bengaluru Urban District.

Applications are invited from qualified candidates for the temporary appointment on outsourcing basis to obtain the services of Legal Consultants for proper handling of court related cases for the Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer, Bengaluru Urban District as per the Order of the Revenue Department, Government of Karnataka.

Last date of submission of Application: **28-03-2026.**

Job Description:

Sl. No	Post/ Designation	Qualification		Relevant Experience		No. of Post	Contract wage per Month
		Basic	Preference	Basic	Preference		
1	**Legal Advisor**	LLB, LLM Registered at Bar council of Karnataka for at least 10 years.	LLM	1. Retired District Judges, or 2. Retired Officers of the Revenue Department (such as Tahsildar / Deputy Tahsildar) having experience in revenue laws and land acquisition matters	Minimum 5 years' experience in High court	1	70,000/- (Actual shall depend upon qualification & Experience)

The Position to be filled is a post created vide Government Order and is renewable year on year. It is a post on contract, renewable on satisfactory performance, and it is **not a permanent government service.**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/6346/ Zen/2025-26 **Special Land Acquisition Officer,** Bengaluru Urban District, Revenue Department

Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (HQs), New Delhi

Admission Notice: 2026-27

1. Online Registration for Admission in Class-I and Balvatika (in selected Kvs) in Kendriya Vidyalayas for the Academic Year 2026-27 will commence at 10:00 am on 20.03.2026 and will close on 02.04.2026. The details of admission are available on website https://kvsangathan.nic.in/en/admissio/. Link to apply online for Class 1 and Balvatika 1, 2 and 3 (wherever applicable): https://admission.kvs.gov.in
2. Minimum age for admission in Class-I will be 6 years. Reckoning of age for all Classes shall be as on **31.03.2026.** Reservation of seats will be as per KVS Admission Guidelines 2026-27.
3. Age for Balvatika-1, 2 & 3 will be 3 to 4 years, 4 to 5 years and 5 to 6 years respectively as on 31.03.2026.
4. Registration for fresh admissions, in Balvatika-2 & 3 (where online admissions are not taking place), Class II and above (except class XI), will start from 02.04.2026 at 10:00 am to 08.04.2026 up to 04:00 pm, if vacancies exist, in offline mode only. The duly filled up form needs to be submitted to the office of the Principal in the respective KV.
5. All information regarding Admission & Registration forms for Balvatika-2 & 3 (where online admissions are not taking place), Class-II and above, if vacancies exist, will be available on the Vidyalaya Websites and registrations can be done as per the Schedule for Admission 2026-27.
6. Admission will not be granted, if wrong and misleading information in the application form is found at the time of scrutiny by the KV.
7. Contact Principal/Admission In-charge, only when called, in the given time slot.

Three kids among 9 of family killed in Delhi building inferno

Three Residents Jump From Top Floors, Critical

Abhay & Khushi Bhuta

TOI

Initial probe suggested that the fire was likely sparked by a short circuit on ground floor. Both PMO and Delhi govt announced compensation packages

New Delhi: A deadly inferno tore through a residential-cum-commercial building in southwest Delhi's Palam area on Wednesday morning, claiming the lives of nine family members, including three children. Three residents jumped from the top floors and are now battling for life at hospital.

The fire was likely sparked by a short circuit on the ground floor, an initial probe suggested. A detailed probe involving police, fire and govt is under way. The building was owned by businessman and Sadhnagar market association president Rajender Kashyap (70), who had gone to Goa for work two days prior to the incident. He returned on Wednesday afternoon to find his family members dead. While 12 people were pulled from the wreckage and rushed to various medical facilities, nine of them were either declared dead on arrival or succumbed to injuries later.

The blaze broke out around 7am and a thick cloud of smoke soon engulfed the four-storeyed building. The emergency response team involved 30 fire tenders and 100 firefighters, who battled the blaze for hours. They were supported by 11 CATS ambulances, police as well as personnel from NDRF.

The building housed a cloth and cosmetics showroom named 'Pravesh Moderate' in the basement, ground floor and first floor, while the family lived on second and third floors. The presence of large stockpiles of garments and cosmetic items acted as fuel to fire. As the flames engulfed lower floors, upper floors became a death trap for the residents. "Seven bodies were recovered from a hall on the third floor, while two bodies were found from a bathroom on the third floor of the building," the officer said. After the post-mortems, nine bodies have been cremated.

Businessman Yogesh Sharma, an eyewitness, said they tried to break open the showroom shutter to rescue those trapped inside. "My son was on his way to his college when he alerted me about the blaze at the shop. Along with other residents, I rushed to the spot. It took nearly 4 to 5 hours to bring the fire under control," he said.

While police claimed that the residents of the building were awake at the time of the incident, locals said they were sleeping and were alerted by other residents. "We came to know that the water motor had been left switched on, which may have caused a spark," resident Ramesh Kumar said. However, the police said they are still probing the cause of fire.

At Manipal Hospital, eight victims were identified: Lado Devi, (70), 33-year-old Pravesh, 39-year-old Kamal, 35-year-old Ashu, Himanshi (22) and three minor girls Niharika (15), Ivani (6) , and Jessica (3). At IGI Hospital, 28-year-old Deepika was declared dead.

Eight killed as EV charger fire traps sleeping family in Indore

Power Failure Disabled E-locks, Prevented Escape

Sagar Choukse & Sheezan Nezami | TNN

Pravin Barnale

Police and fire dept officials inspect the wreckage of a car after a fire broke out in a house in Indore's Brijeshwari Annexe on Wednesday

Indore/Patna: Six members of a Bihar businessman's family staying with relatives in MP's Indore for his cancer treatment were among eight people killed early Wednesday after a short-circuit in an electric-vehicle charger turned a three-storey house into an inferno while electronic locks disabled by power failure ensured none could escape.

Three others were critically injured in the blaze that broke out around 3.30am at polymer businessman Manoj Pugalia's Brijeshwari Annexe home near Bengali Square. The 65-year-old host's brother-in-law Vijay Sethia, the same age as him, had arrived from Kishanganj in Bihar days earlier for his treatment.

Pugalia, his daughter-in-law Simran (30), Sethia, the latter's wife Suman (60), his nephew Chhotu (22), the couple's daughter Ruchika (35) and the host's grandchildren Tanmay (8) and Rashi (12) died in the fire tragedy.

Police commissioner Santosh Singh said a hatchback EV parked outside the house had been left plugged into a charging point overnight. A charger malfunction ignited the electrical board, causing the house wiring to burn and set alight the decorative plaster-of-Paris ceilings.

The EV's battery exploded, followed by fuel tanks of scooters parked nearby. The ground floor became inaccessible as flames climbed to the second floor through cabling on an electricity pole.

Singh said at least three of 10 LPG cylinders stored in the house exploded, too. "People heard around three blasts possibly caused by exploding cylinders, making the situation even more critical," the city police chief said.

The building's electronic locking system compounded the disaster. Neighbours described hearing screams for about 15 minutes before an eerie silence descended on the house. "After that, there was only the crackling sound of the fire," said Vikas Juneja, a neighbour.

Another neighbour, Mahendra Jain, placed a ladder on a table and broke through the iron grille on the second floor to pull out Pugalia's wife Sunita and sons Saurabh, Harshit and Somil to safety. They were taken to MY Hospital with minor injuries.

Fire engines couldn't enter the narrow lanes. A 45-minute delay in securing water tankers made it worse. Domestic water pumps might have helped but there was no power. AC compressors and refrigerators exploded through the blaze, shattering windows across the block.

Firemen found four commercial LPG cylinders in the kitchen. One of these had exploded but the rest were retrieved before they could detonate.

Panel: Such lyrics provoke youth towards eve-teasing

▶ Continued from page 1

Featuring Sanjay Dutt and **Nora Fatehi (in pic)**, the song was released on YouTube two days ago and quickly went viral for its lyrics that appear to describe a sexual act.

Karnataka State Commission for Women has sought action against objectionable content in the original Kannada track. In a letter to Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC), commission chairperson Nagalakshmi Choudhary stated, "Such lyrics provoke the youth towards eve-teasing, especially targeting students and working women."

She urged the chamber to direct the filmmakers to avoid content that "outrages the modesty of women".

In a separate communication to the regional director of Central Board of Film Certification, she requested that the board ensure the "objectionable portions are deleted or suitably modified" before certification.

The CBFC said it has not received any application for certification of the song and does not regulate digital content. "There is often confusion about this and CBFC is unnecessarily dragged into matters that are not connected," it said, adding, "In the case of this particular song, all queries should be directed to the platform and the makers of the song."

The backlash was echoed by top writers and activists, including ex-minister BT Lalitha Naik, advocate Hemalata Mahishi, Vasundhara Bhupathi, MS Ashadevi and Pratibha Nandakumar. In a letter, they said, "At a time when there are already multiple instances of violence against women, such songs portray women as objects of lust and encourage people to view them in that manner."

Earlier too, foreign mercenaries went to Myanmar via Mizoram

H C Vanlalruata | TNN

File photo

The NIA's suspicion that the seven arrested foreigners brought in drones from Europe via Myanmar has not been confirmed

Aizawl: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has asked Mizoram to verify reports that seven foreigners arrested in Lucknow, Kolkata and Delhi recently conducted weapons and drone training in Myanmar's Chin state between late Jan and Feb, a senior official of the police's intelligence wing said on Wednesday.

While evidence of anti-India activity across the border has been found through "sources" in Chin state, what is even more concerning is how easily foreigners can cross from Mizoram into Myanmar through the 404km border the two share, the official said.

"This has become easier due to the absence of effective control by Myanmar's military junta in Chin state where the Chin National Front, Chin National Army and other Chin militias now hold sway," he said.

The Tiau river, which is part of the border, is currently so shallow that even children can cross it on foot.

Foreigners entering Mizoram require a protected area permit, a mandatory special travel document for all foreigners barring Bhutanese nationals visiting specific security sensitive areas within Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Manipur, Mizoram and parts of J&K and Himachal Pradesh.

Although local authorities are tightening enforcement, those already in the state face little difficulty crossing into Myanmar, the intelligence official said.

The NIA's suspicion that the seven arrested foreigners — six Ukrainians and a US national — brought in drones from Europe via Myanmar has not been confirmed. But the entry of foreign mercenaries through Mizoram to train anti-coup armed groups fighting the junta is an established pattern, the official said.

Concerns over this route surfaced after the June 19, 2024, arrest of retired British SAS commando Daniel Newey at Aizawl's Lengpui airport. Police found a live bullet on him.

VanDyke & co trained Myanmar rebels but it could have spill-over effect in NE: Officials

▶ Continued from P 1

Captured and held for nearly six months, he later escaped during Tripoli's fall — an episode that cemented his image as a man who did not just document war but stepped into it.

Syria followed. So did controversy.

He acknowledged on social media advising rebel factions on tactics and weapons, drawing criticism for collapsing the boundary between journalism and combat. His academic grounding — a master's degree in security studies with a West Asia focus from Georgetown University — fed into a persona that fused analysis with action.

Over time, VanDyke crafted a public identity around conflict. Through his organisation, Sons of Liberty International (SOLI), he claimed to train communities fighting terrorism and authoritarian regimes. Social media posts and his website depict operations in Iraq, Venezuela, the Philippines, and Ukraine. In one post, he wrote: "My organization SOLI is training a new unit to fight against terrorists... from never holding a firearm before to becoming good shooters."

He later claimed involvement in covert missions in Venezuela, writing: "You've read about our missions... nobody knew who did it."

Authorities in India alleged a far darker turn. Investigators said VanDyke and six Ukrainian associates entered Mizoram without required permissions, crossed into Myanmar, and conducted "pre-scheduled training" for ethnic armed groups opposing the junta. The training allegedly included advanced drone warfare — assembly, deployment, and jamming systems. Security officials said that such capabilities could spill across borders, amplifying insurgent threats in the Northeast.

His arrest came minutes before departure. On March 12, VanDyke had cleared immigration at the Kolkata airport and was about to board a flight to Dubai, en route to Poland. His bags were already loaded. Intelligence alerts triggered a last-second stop. "He had cleared immigration and was about to depart when he was stopped," an official said. He spent two days being questioned before being handed to the NIA. Investigators traced his movements from New Delhi to Kolkata, then to Mizoram, and allegedly across to Myanmar's Chin state.

All seven foreigners now face charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. A Delhi court has granted NIA custody for further interrogation.

VanDyke insists SOLI operates independently, without govt backing. Yet his footprint tracks closely with global conflict zones — Libya, Syria, Iraq, Ukraine, Venezuela. Diplomatic channels are active. The US has acknowledged awareness of the case. Ukraine is tracking the status of its citizens.

For years, he appeared to defy the archetype of the silent operative — the "grey man", a ghost who dissolves into the crowd. No erased trail. No hidden identity. Instead, a blog, posts and interviews mapping his path across battlefields. A narrative lived in public view, not shadows. Now, the story shifts from frontlines to courtrooms. For a man who made a career out of choosing his wars, the next chapter will not be his to script.

Fears of early summer recede, wet spell likely in North till March-end

Amit.Bhattacharya
@timesofindia.com

Tarun Rawat

Most parts of Delhi got sharp showers Wednesday evening

New Delhi: The rapid rise in heat in the first half of March, leading to the spectre of an early and long summer in north India, appears to have halted for at least the next two weeks. While an ongoing weather system is already bringing rain to north India, two more are expected to impact the region this month, ensuring that temperatures remain normal to below normal, the met department said.

The wet spell, which began around March 14 with a western disturbance, marks a sudden turn in the weather after a particularly dry winter in the region and sharp rise in heat since mid-Feb. It's bringing not just rain in the plains but also much needed snow in the higher hills ahead of summer. Among other things, the forest fire season in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh is expected to be pushed back by a few weeks.

"There's an ongoing western disturbance that's going to impact northwest India till around March 21. Another active WD is likely to start impacting the region from around March 23 and a third one from around March 27. We expect temperatures to be in the normal to below-normal range. The heatwaves have subsided," said Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, chief of India Meteorological Department.

If IMD's forecast of two more active WDs affecting north India holds true, it would take the number of these wet-weather systems in the second half of March to four.

3 workers die in Raipur hospital septic tank

Raipur: Three sanitation workers died after allegedly inhaling toxic gas while cleaning a septic tank at a private hospital in Raipur on Tuesday, triggering protests by their relatives who alleged the hospital management and the contractor didn't provide them safety gear.

Amid outrage, the hospital management announced a compensation of Rs 30 lakh each to the families of the deceased. A senior member of hospital management told **TOI** that besides the compensation, the hospital will provide each bereaved family Rs 20,000 per month towards the education of the victims' children and offer free treatment to an immediate family member in case of illness.

The deceased men — Govind Sendre, Anmol Majhi, and Satyam Kumar — were cleaning the tank area when one of them reportedly collapsed after entering the chamber. The two others went inside one after another to rescue him, but they too died, a source said. TNN

Cab driver bites techie over fare row in Pune

Pune: An IT professional's finger on the left hand was partially severed on Monday afternoon after a cab driver bit it following a row over fare before a ride from Hinjewadi to Nana Peth in Pune, police said.

The 42-year-old techie, working for an IT firm in Phase I of Hinjewadi IT Park, booked a Rapido cab for home in Nana Peth after his shift ended.

Police said the accused driver was arrested. "The dispute began even before the ride started, as the driver insisted that the fare would be as per the 'meter', and not as shown on app. The victim refused, following which the argument escalated," he said.

According to a complaint by the techie, one of his fingers was partially severed and he was admitted to a hospital. TNN

Telangana alerts Poland as 'meow meow' probe uncovers global link

Srinath Vudali | TNN

Investigators probing the illegal manufacture of mephedrone found that a suspect linked to the case shipped key precursor chemicals to Poland

Hyderabad: An inter-state drug racket busted in Telangana has revealed a wider network stretching beyond India's borders. Investigators probing the illegal manufacture of mephedrone, popularly known as "meow meow", found that a suspect linked to the case shipped key precursor chemicals to Poland, prompting the EAGLE force to alert foreign authorities.

This is part of an investigation into an illegal manufacturing unit in Shadnagar on the outskirts of Hyderabad, from where 17kg of the banned drug was seized. The information was conveyed to Poland through the Narcotics Control Bureau, India's nodal agency for drug-related international coordination.

The suspect transported the precursor 2 Bromo-4 methylpropiophenone to Poland in July 2025. The investigating team busted the racket earlier this month.

"Presently, 2 Bromo-4 methylpropiophenone has no significant industrial demand. Along with this chemical, the suspect also shipped 2 Bromo+3 chloropropiophenone in the same consignment to Poland. Based on our investigation, we alerted European authorities about the potential risk," an officer in EAGLE told **TOI**.

The precursor 2 Bromo+3 chloropropiophenone, when subjected to a chemical reaction, can lead to the formation of clophedrone, another designer drug. Except for limited use in manufacturing a specific antidepressant, these chemicals are largely prone to misuse in the illegal drug trade, experts say.

Following proposals from various enforcement agencies, the Union govt brought 2 Bromo-4 methylpropiophenone under the list of regulated precursors from March 11.

Investigators tracking buyers of these precursors received a tip-off some 15 days ago about the illegal manufacture of mephedrone at a house in Shadnagar. The drug was being transported to Rajasthan in two vehicles.

Acting on an alert from EAGLE, Rajasthan police intercepted the vehicles and arrested Veerender Swamy and Manish Bishnoi, and seized 17kg of mephedrone.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Finding Stability In Troubled Times

Avoid negative discussions or arguments about whose opinions are right or wrong; such exchanges only entangle us further in maya, writes NAYASWAMI DEVI

ARUNDYUTI DAS BASU

The world today is passing through a period of profound uncertainty and change. Across nations and cultures, familiar assumptions about stability, leadership, and social order are being challenged. Prolonged conflicts, shifting alliances, economic volatility, rapid technological transformation, and widespread anxiety about the future have created waves of confusion and fear that are being felt across the planet.

In recent months, these global pressures have only intensified. Long-standing wars continue without clear resolution, humanitarian crises persist, and nations everywhere are grappling with questions of security, identity, and direction. Many people sense that we are standing at a turning point in history, one that asks humanity to respond with greater wisdom, compassion, and inner strength.

In the face of such turbulence, a fundamental question arises: What do we do now?

As global citizens, we must move into the future as positively as possible, helping to establish stability in these changing times. While outer systems and structures may fluctuate, higher principles of equality, dignity, and human rights remain essential guides for collective progress.

For those of us walking the spiritual path, we have an even deeper responsibility. We must give our full strength to keeping our consciousness uplifted—holding God's presence in our hearts and minds, and helping others to do the same.

Learn To Love

Some years ago, Swami Kriyananda shared a dream he had about impending world challenges. The guidance he received was simple and powerful: our response to what lies ahead should be to 'love heroically.' Try to act as expansively and selflessly as you can, and resist the pull to place your own needs first. In hundreds of small ways throughout each day, choose kindness and selflessness over self-interest and narrow-mindedness.

Even more than that, resist the temptation to let your heart contract. Cultivate a deeper capacity to love unconditionally—with acceptance and without judgement. This is what lives of all great spiritual teachers demonstrate for us.

Focus On Meditation

Practise the scientific techniques of meditation with renewed dedication and fervour. Consider adding a longer meditation to your *sadhana* once each week. The attunement with higher consciousness that comes through deep meditation is our greatest aid, giving us the strength, wisdom, and calmness to deal with whatever may come. Through this deepened attunement, we also become clearer channels for higher consciousness in everything we do. Be especially mindful of expressing God through your words and actions.

Connect With Other Truth-seekers

Seek out the company of those who are striving to live in the light. Avoid negative discussions or arguments about whose opinions are right or wrong; such exchanges only entangle us further in *maya*.

If you don't have a spiritual community, you can find a community close to you. Consider participating more often in group meditations and prayer sessions. If no such community is nearby, join a virtual one. This support can be invaluable in helping you remain rooted in peace.

Cling To The Eternal

The affairs of the world—no matter how dramatic or far-reaching—are ultimately fleeting shadows on the screen of time. The only lasting realities are God's peace, joy, and love. When uncertainty, fear, or discouragement arise, look beyond the shadows to the Divine light that is always shining.

God is calling us now to build our spiritual strength. Let us embrace this opportunity with energy and enthusiasm. ■

PERSPECTIVE

Will recommend Bordoloi for ticket in upcoming polls: CM

Pradyut Bordoloi Earlier Chaired Cong's Manifesto Panel For State Polls

▶Continued from page 1

Chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma escorted Bordoloi — a two-term MP for Nagaon and four-time MLA — to meet Union home minister Amit Shah following his induction.

Bordoloi said Sarma's "vision" and "positive thinking" for Assam drew him to BJP.

"For the past two years, I have been facing humiliation and feeling isolated within Congress... I will continue to work with my head held high for the sake of Assamese people," he said.

Sarma said BJP would recommend Bordoloi for a ticket in the upcoming polls. "Bordoloi still had three years of his tenure left... he has to quit as an MP because of the anti-defection law. So, the party has to take care of him," the CM told reporters.

BJP's central election committee, headed by party chief Nitin Nabin, was scheduled to meet later in the day to finalise candidates for Assam and Puducherry.

Himanta Biswa Sarma welcomes Pradyut Bordoloi into the BJP fold

Congress called the exit "unfortunate". Party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said Bordoloi, who had chaired Congress's manifesto committee for the state polls, appeared upset over ticket allocation and that dialogue might have helped. The ex-MP's son Prateek Bordoloi is a Congress candidate for the Margherita seat.

BATTLEGROUND ASSAM

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge received Bordoloi's brief resignation letter late Tuesday. Assam PCC chief Gaurav Gogoi and AICC in-charge Jitendra Singh met him in New Delhi but failed to reverse his decision.

Sarma said BJP was working to bring "all good people" from Congress into its fold and claimed the party had already absorbed most of its rival's top functionaries in Assam since 2016 — the most recent being former Assam PCC president Bhupen Kumar Borah and now Bordoloi.

He predicted more exits after elections, naming opposition leader Debabrata Saikia and former PCC chief Ripun Bora. He also said senior functionary Nabajyoti Talukdar would join BJP within days after resigning Tuesday.

Sarma claimed that even Muslim functionaries in Congress are "feeling suffocated" and would join BJP if ideological barriers did not stop them. He said his own switch from Congress in 2015 triggered a wave of defections, and 17 Congress and Bodoland People's Front politicians have crossed over since then.

The defections have left Assam Congress headquarters in Guwahati nearly deserted. Veteran figures, including Bolin Kuli and former MP Abdul Hamid, sought to reassure workers, saying exits would not damage Congress in the long term and could open space for younger politicians.

Axing MLA who missed RS poll could cost Tejashwi LoP post

Manoj.Chaurasia
@timesofindia.com

Patna: Even as RJD's Dhaka MLA Faisal Rahman's mysterious absence during the voting for the recently held Rajya Sabha elections in Bihar led to the ignominious defeat of the lone opposition candidate, A D Singh, the party leadership is facing a Catch-22 situation about taking action against its MLA.

If RJD expels the MLA, **Tejashwi Yadav** could lose the status of leader of opposition in the Assembly. According to rules, a party must secure at least 10% of the total strength of the legislature to be recognised as the opposition party in the House, and its leader in the House to be granted the LoP post. RJD has 25 seats in the 243-member Assembly, exactly the number required for Tejashwi to hold on to the post. Hence, acting against Rahman could land him in trouble, political experts said.

Taking a swipe at Tejashwi, JD(U) spokesperson Neeraj Kumar on Wednesday dared him to expel the legislator from RJD. "He can't...he will lose his position as the LoP," Kumar said.

RJD, however, attempted to put up a brave front, with a party spokesperson saying: "We will soon serve a showcause notice to him, but we can't act since he was not caught involved in cross-voting. Instead, he remained absent on medical grounds."

The Grand Alliance had fielded A D Singh as its candidate for the RS polls and his victory looked certain since he enjoyed the support of 41 legislators, including five of AIMIM and one from BSP. However, at the time of casting their votes, Rahman and three Congress MLAs were found mysteriously absent and their mobile phones were found "switched off" or "out of reach".

Cong names 4 cross-voters in Haryana, 5th still a mystery

Manvir.Saini
@timesofindia.com

Chandigarh: Congress Wednesday said it had identified four of the five MLAs who cross-voted for BJP or the Independent candidate and nearly cost the party a seat in the recent Rajya Sabha election in Haryana.

Congress general secretary in-charge of Haryana, BK Hariprasad, named the four as Mohd Israel, Illiyas Khan, Renu Bala and Shelly Chaudhary. The identity of the fifth lawmaker is still a mystery amid allegations from certain quarters within the ranks that Congress state high command was protecting him or her as they were close to the leadership.

While Shalley is a two-time MLA from Naraingarh, Ilyas is a three-time MLA from Punahana, Israel, a debutant from Hathin, and Renu is twice elected from Sadhaura. Shalley is the wife of Ram Kishan Gujjar, who resigned as party working president Tuesday.

"We have asked the discipline committee to issue showcause notices to these MLAs and initiate further action," Hariparsad told reporters in Delhi, adding, "The committee will send its report on the basis of which action will be taken."

In Monday's RS election, Congress lost nine votes — five to cross-voting and four were invalidated — turning what should have been an easy win for Karamveer Baudh into a nail-biter and an embarrassment for the party. BJP-backed Independent Satish Nandal lost by a hair's breadth.

ACTION SOON

The episode triggered outrage within Congress, and demands for punitive action. On Wednesday, two Congress MLAs — Gokula Setia (Sirsa) and Manju Chaudhary (Nangal) — sat on a dharna outside the party office in Chandigarh demanding the high command reveal names of the cross-voters. Leader of opposition Bhupinder Hooda arrived, pacified the two, and took them along to assembly.

Fadnavis writes to Shah, seeks probe into Ajit's plane crash

Mumbai: Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis has sought a "comprehensive, transparent and time-bound" probe into the Jan 28 Baramati accident that killed former deputy chief minister **Ajit Pawar** and four others.

The CM's letter flagged concerns over safety oversight, crew deployment and discrepancies in flight data.

In a March 6 letter to home minister Amit Shah, Fadnavis said a representation from NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar had highlighted multiple issues requiring detailed examination during the ongoing investigation by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB).

These include safety record of the operator, including a 2023 accident at Mumbai airport and regulatory observations made by foreign countries; flight crew deployment, including last-minute pilot changes and compliance with crew work and rest rules; aircraft maintenance, technical logs and airworthiness oversight; discrepancies in flight data, including air traffic control records, radar inputs, transponder loss and cockpit recordings; operational decisions during landing, including low visibility approach, runway choice, go-around and no diversion and finally adequacy of regulatory oversight and compliance with aviation safety norms. TNN

UDF allots seats in Kerala, yet to name all candidates

T'puram: Opposition neta V D Satheesan Tuesday announced that the seat-sharing arrangement within UDF for the upcoming polls was complete, with Congress contesting 95 constituencies. The party also released a list of 55 candidates. As per the agreement, IUML will contest 27 seats, Kerala Congress (Joseph) eight, and Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) five. Smaller allies — Kerala Congress (Jacob), Revolutionary Marxist Party of India (RMPI), Communist Marxist Party (CMP), Kerala Democratic Party (KDP) and All-India Trinamool Congress (TMC) — will contest one seat each. Satheesan said talks were smooth and concluded on a positive note. Kerala Congress (Joseph) ceded Idukki and Ettumanoor to Congress, while seat exchanges were agreed in Thrikaripur and Kanhangad. RSP retained its five seats and dropped plans to field a candidate in Payyannur, backing CPM rebel V Kunhikrishnan. TNN

BATTLEGROUND KERALA

Poll panel transfers 60 officers in three days in West Bengal

Kaushik Pradhan & Debashis Konar | TNN

Kolkata: Within three days of announcing poll dates on March 15, Election Commission (EC) has transferred 60 senior IAS and IPS officers in Bengal. Seventeen of them were named election observers in other states.

In latest orders since the Model Code of Conduct came into force, EC Wednesday transferred 13 IAS officers, who were serving as district election officers (DEOs), and 20 IPS officers. Among the 13 were the DEOs of Kolkata North and Kolkata South electoral districts.

BATTLEGROUND WEST BENGAL

Two of the IPS officers — Murlidhar Sharma and Waquar Raza — were named poll observers for Tamil Nadu. Sharma is currently the commissioner of Bidhannagar City Police, while Raza took over as the head of the Siliguri commissionerate a couple of days ago. Among the other officers to be sent as poll observers are Alok Rajoria, Praveen Tripathi, Dhritiman Sarkar and Indira Mukherjee.

Five IAS officers sent to other states as poll observers are JP Meena (who was removed from the post of home secretary on Sunday night), Antara Acharya, Parwez Ahmed Siddiqui, P Mohan Gandhi and Priyanka Singla.

While senior govt functionaries had been routinely shifted in the run-up to elections, the sheer number of transfers before the 2026 polls made the current exercise unprecedented, officials said. Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee wrote to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, asking why the poll panel bypassed the convention of seeking a panel of three names from state govt to fill each post affected by the transfers.

CEC: Have zero tolerance for any violence, intimidation

Bharti.Jain@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Chief election commissioner Gyanesh Kumar has sent out a clear message to the election machinery in poll-going states — particularly officers brought in to replace the administrative and police brass seen as "pliable" or "partisan" towards the party in office — that they should maintain 100% neutrality while imposing strict checks on poll violence and voter intimidation.

"EC has zero tolerance towards any kind of violence, intimidation or inducement towards any elector," the CEC is said to have told the officials directly involved in poll conduct in four states and a UT in separate interactions after elections were announced.

An EC official said the slew of transfers in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Assam are essentially to clean up the administration and police of elements who have over the years become pliable, fearing a backlash once polls are over or developed a vested interest in furthering the interests of a particularly party or candidate.

'No compromise': Vijay scotches alliance 'rumours'

Chennai: TVK president Vijay scotched speculation of alliance talks with the AIADMK-BJP combine as false propaganda to discredit him. Vijay said on Wednesday that TVK would not compromise on its secular principles and was determined to form a govt under its own leadership.

"We will never compromise on our stand of secularism and social justice," Vijay said at an Iftar event organised by TVK at Mamallapuram, a response to the reports that TVK was holding talks with BJP. In a rebuttal to the speculation that he was being offered the deputy chief minister's post, Vijay said TVK was firm on forming a govt under its own leadership. "As I said at our first conference, we will not compromise for anyone or anything. There is no question of it," Vijay said. The statement comes amid reports that TVK was in talks with the NDA and that it was offered between 60 and 80 seats and the deputy chief minister's post as part of the arrangement.

SECULAR OUTREACH: Vijay at an Iftar event hosted by TVK in Mamallapuram on Wednesday

Vijay said from the time he entered politics, rumours were spread about TVK being the 'B team' of other parties. "But I do not belong to any such team. I belong to the people; this is the people's team," he said. He said that after earlier attempts to target the party failed, a fresh round of slandering was unleashed. "They started a false campaign claiming we would join one alliance or another," he said.

Stating that such rumours would have left TVK cadres confused, Vijay asked supporters not to fall for such false reports. "Whatever rumours are being spread, please do not believe them," he said. He expressed confidence in the party's electoral prospects and extended Ramzan greetings at the event, which was attended by party functionaries and others. TNN

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Commissioner, Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru-560092.

No.: BNCC/Comm/PR/360/2025-26 Date: 18-03-2026

FORM - III

PUBLIC NOTICE

In exercise of powers conferred under **Section 14-B of the Karnataka Town & Country Planning Act 1961** the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by **The Commissioner, Bengaluru North City Corporation** for **"Providing Free Left towards Kempegowda International Airport (KIAL) road at Kodigehalli Gate Junction".**

The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2023. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested person whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition Officer, O/o Commissioner, BNCC Head Office, within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of land / building area surrendered and land owners for which DRC is to be issued.

Name of the District : **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk: **Bengaluru North** Name of the Village : **Hebbala**

Sy. No./ Khatha No.	Type of Land	Nature of Land		Dimension of the land/ plot and Extent in Sq.m.		Boundaries of the Land / Plot				Building details			Present activity on Land/ Building (Specially specific activity such as Shop, Office, Factory, Apartment, Individual house etc.,	Market (guide-lines) valueof the land per Sq.m	Name and address of the owner of the plot/land for which DRC is to be issued/ already issued.
	Vacant	Agriculture Converted Undeveloped	Approved Layout/ Developed Land Building Site	Dimension	Extent	North	South	East	West	Extension in Sq.m	Type of Construction and N. of Floor	Floor Area Ratio			
Khatha No. 44/1, E.P.I.D. No. 272713549	Vacant	Developed Land		Land = 557.42 Sqm.		Private Property	Kodigehalli Main Road	Bellary main Road (Kempegowda International Airport Road)	Road and Private Property	None	None	None	Vacant	Rs. 1,12,000/- per sqm.	Smt. Vidyadevi Ladhani W/o S.N. Ladani B. Vasanth Kumar Shetty S/o Bolu Shetty Sapna V Shetty W/o B. Vasanth Kumar Shetty Residing at No. T3, 21 B, SNN clemont Jopappa Layout, Nagavara, Bengaluru-560045.

- Market guideline value of this property is considered subject to conditions of payment of fee as per Government Order No: ನಆಇ 137 ಐಂಎನ್‌ಯು 2024(ಇ), ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.09.2024 and as per the Circular No. ಆಯುಕ್ತರು/ಪ.ಎಸ್.ಆರ್.ಜಿ/1802/2024–25, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.09.2024.
- Objections and suggestions made be submitted at the address specified below:

Name and address of the Divisional / Sub divisional / Branch office

Special Land Acquisition Officer, Land Acquisition & TDR, BNCC, 2nd Floor, Main Building, Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore-560092.

Sd/- Commissioner
Bengaluru North City Corporation

TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

IF GOVERNMENT WERE A PRODUCT, SELLING IT WOULD BE ILLEGAL
— P J O'ROURKE

RYAN GOSLING FELT MORE THAN A COSMIC CONNECTION TO 'PROJECT HAIL MARY': 'GRATEFUL TO MAKE A FILM FOR MY KIDS'

ROBERT PATTINSON TEASES 'THE BATMAN PART II' IS 'TAKING SOME BIG SWINGS': 'I THINK IT'S GOING TO BE A REALLY SPECIAL MOVIE'

Iran's huge Gulf gas field is struck in major escalation

Tehran Warns Of Hits On Energy Installations In Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar

Iran's huge Pars gas field was hit on Wednesday, a major escalation in the US-Israeli war, prompting Tehran to announce it would respond with attacks on oil and gas targets throughout the Gulf. Oil prices shot up after the attack. Benchmark Brent crude prices rose around 5% to above $108.

Pars is the Iranian sector of the world's largest natural gas deposit, which Iran shares with Qatar across the Gulf. Iran's Fars news agency reported that gas tanks and parts of a refinery had been hit, workers had been evacuated to a safe location and emergency crews were trying to put out a fire. State media later said the fire was under control. The attack was widely reported in Israeli media to have been carried out by Israel with US consent, though neither country acknowledged immediate responsibility. The Israeli military did not respond to requests for comment.

Qatar blamed the attack on Israel without mentioning any US role. The Qatari foreign ministry spokesperson called it a "dangerous and irresponsible" escalation that put global energy security at risk. The UAE also denounced the attack.

Iran listed an array of prominent regional oil and gas targets belonging to Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar, which it said were now "direct and legitimate targets" and should be evacuated at once before it struck them in the coming hours. Previously, the US and Israel had held back from targeting Iran's energy production facilities in the Gulf, averting Iranian retaliation against the oil and gas industries of its neighbours.

Iran's warning was directed at Saudi Arabia's Samref Refinery and Jubail Petrochemical Complex, the UAE's Al Hosn Gas Field, and Qatar's Mesaieed Petrochemical Complex, Mesaieed Holding Company and Ras Laffan Refinery.

Several loud bangs were heard in the Saudi capital Riyadh on Wednesday and some of its residents received phone alerts for the first time warning them of a hostile aerial threat, a witness said. State TV said Saudi air defences had dealt with a "ballistic threat". REUTERS

LATEST BLOWS TO IRAN'S LEADERSHIP

US-Israeli strikes have killed several Iranian political & military figures, **breaking up Iran's core leadership.** A look at who they were and when were they killed:

Source: Reuters

Feb 28
Ayatollah Ali Khamenei
Iran's Supreme Leader since 1989, he built an iron grip over Iran

Iranians gather at Enghelab Square in Tehran to commemorate those killed on Dena naval vessel, which was sunk by the US

Feb 28
Ali Shamkhani
Khamenei's adviser, a key figure in Iran's security and nuclear policymaking, and a former defence minister

Feb 28
Mohammad Pakpour
Commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, a veteran Guards officer

Feb 28
Aziz Nasirzadeh
Iran's defence minister and a career air force officer; played key role in military planning and defence policy

Feb 28
Abdolrahim Mousavi
Chief of staff of Iran's armed forces, a career army officer and former head of the regular army (Artesh); was responsible for coordinating Iran's military branches and overseeing conventional forces

Mar 17
Ali Larijani
Secretary of the supreme national security council, and a veteran power-broker, killed along with his son

Mar 17
Gholamreza Soleimani,
Commander of Iran's Basij paramilitary force, senior IRGC officer, led the force central to internal security and the enforcement of state authority

Mar 18
Esmail Khatib
Intel min, hardliner cleric, politician, mentored by Khamenei, before heading civilian intel apparatus in Aug 2021

Khatib oversaw mass arrests, crackdowns during 2022 protests

▶Continued from P 1

Israel's defence minister Israel Katz said that the military has been authorised to target any senior Iranian official without requiring further approval. "We will continue to thwart and hunt them all down," Katz said.

The Israeli military said Khatib's ministry oversaw "surveillance, espionage, and the execution of covert operations worldwide", particularly against Israel. He also played a significant role in the brutal crackdown on the recent anti-govt protests in Iran, and led his ministry's "terrorist activities against Israeli and American targets around the world", the Israeli military said. In 2022, US imposed sanctions on both Khatib and Iran's intelligence ministry. The ministry, under Khatib's leadership, conducted "cyber espionage and ransomware attacks in support of Iran's political goals", the US treasury department said.

Khatib also oversaw mass arrests and crackdowns during a women-led uprising in 2022 that followed the death of Mahsa Amini in the custody of Iran's morality police. He was appointed intelligence minister in 2021. AGENCIES

US says hit Iran missile sites near Strait with 'bunker buster' bombs

Washington: The US military said on Tuesday it had hit Iranian missile sites near the strategic Strait of Hormuz with some of the most powerful bombs in the US arsenal. "US forces successfully employed multiple 5,000-pound deep penetrator munitions on hardened Iranian missile sites along Iran's coastline near the Strait of Hormuz," Central Command said in a statement on X. "The Iranian anti-ship cruise missiles in these sites posed a risk to international shipping in the strait."

The bombing raid comes after Iran closed off the strategic waterway, through which one-fifth of the world's oil flows, in retaliation for the war on the country by the US and Israel.

The bomb — which according to an Air Force Times report in 2022 cost an estimated $288,000 each — are still less powerful than the 30,000-pound (13,600-kg) bombs dropped by the United States against Iranian nuclear sites last year. AFP

Israel military says its tank fire hit UN Lebanon base, regrets incident

Paris: Israel's military on Wednesday acknowledged that its tank fire hit a UN position in southern Lebanon on March 6, wounding Ghanaian peacekeepers. Initial findings by an internal UN inquiry had suggested Israel was behind the attack, a Western military source had told Reuters on Tuesday.

The UN peacekeeping mission known as UNIFIL is stationed in southern Lebanon to monitor hostilities along the demarcation line with Israel.

In a statement to Reuters, Israel's military acknowledged its troops were behind the incident, but said they had responded to anti-tank missile fire from Hezbollah, which had moderately wounded two of its soldiers. "...The IDF regrets the incident and has conveyed its apologies through the appropriate channels to Ghana and the UN," the statement said. REUTERS

'Iranian projectile hits near Aus military HQ in UAE'

Sydney: An Iranian projectile hit near Australia's military headquarters for West Asia in the UAE on Wednesday but caused no injuries, PM Anthony Albanese said. It landed at 9.15 Sydney time near the Al Minhad base. "I can confirm that no Australian personnel were injured, and everyone is absolutely safe," Albanese said.

The projectile caused "minor damage" to an accommodation block and a medical facility, the Australian leader said. Al Minhad Air Base — just 24 km south of Dubai — has hosted Australian forces since 2003. Up to 80 Australians are on-base at any given time, according to the Australian military. The base was previously hit by an Iranian drone attack. AFP

Iran hits Tel Aviv with cluster warheads to avenge killings

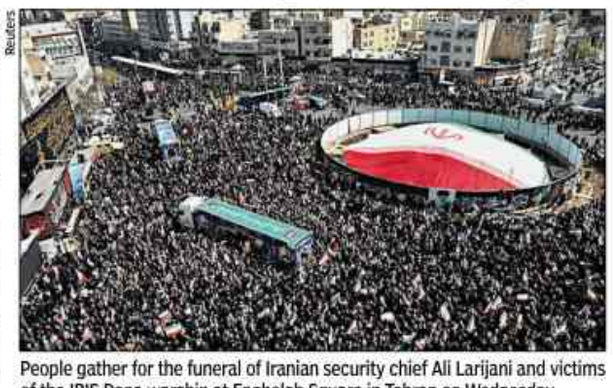
Dubai/Tel Aviv: A defiant Iran said Israel's killing of security chief Ali Larijani and other key officials would not hinder its operations with replacements swiftly appointed, as Israel launched a swathe of strikes against Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Iran's foreign minister Abbas Araqchi said the US and Israel did not understand that the Islamic Republic was a robust political system and did not depend on any single individual. The death of senior officials would not disrupt governance and the state would continue to function, Araqchi said in an interview with Al Jazeera published on Iranian state media on Wednesday.

Iran targeted Tel Aviv with missiles carrying cluster warheads in what it said was retaliation for Israel's assassination of Larijani, Iranian state television reported earlier. A statement by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps read on state TV said weapons used included Khorramshahr 4 and Qadr missiles, both of which carried multiple warheads.

Israeli authorities said the attacks killed two people in a neighbourhood close to densely populated Tel Aviv, where there are also key military facilities, bringing the death toll in Israel from the war to at least 14.

Israel has said that Iran has repeatedly used cluster warheads, which disperse into smaller explosives mid-air and spread over a wide area, making them difficult to intercept.



Reuters

People gather for the funeral of Iranian security chief Ali Larijani and victims of the IRIS Dena warship at Enghelab Square in Tehran on Wednesday

Mojtaba vows retaliation for Larijani's killing

A rare written statement from Iran's new supreme leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, promised retaliation for the killing of the nation's top security official, Ali Larijani, saying, "All blood has its price that the criminal murderers of the martyrs must pay soon." The war on Iran shows no signs of de-escalation with Mojtaba Khamenei rejecting proposals conveyed to Iran's foreign ministry for "ceasefire with the US," according to a senior Iranian official . Khamenei, attending his first foreign-policy meet, said it was not "the right time for peace until the US and Israel are brought to their knees, accept defeat, and pay compensation," according to the official.

Iran executes 'Israeli spy'

Iran had executed a man convicted of spying for Israel, the Iranian judiciary's media outlet Mizan said on Wednesday. The man, identified as Kurosh Keyvani, had been convicted of providing Israel's spy agency Mossad with pictures and information about sensitive locations in Iran, it said. The Israel Defence Forces said strikes on Tehran on Tuesday included the headquarters of the IRGC security unit tasked with suppressing unrest. A projectile also hit near the Bushehr nuclear power plant on Tuesday evening but caused no damage or injuries, Iran told International Atomic Energy Agency.

10 more killed in Lebanon

Israel stepped up airstrikes on Beirut on Wednesday, killing at least 10 people and destroying a 10-storey building, Lebanese authorities said. Israeli warplanes struck bridges over the Litani River that link southern Lebanon to the rest of the country, destroying two of them, state media said. AGENCIES

Iran govt degraded but appears intact: Gabbard

Washington: Iran's govt has been degraded since the war began, but it appears to be intact, US director of National Intelligence **Tulsi Gabbard** said on Wednesday. "The regime in Iran appears to be intact but largely degraded by Operation Epic Fury," Gabbard said in her opening statement to the Senate Intelligence Committee's annual hearing on Worldwide Threats to the US. "Even so, Iran and its proxies remain capable of and continue to attack US and allied interests in the Middle East (West Asia). If a hostile regime survives, it will seek to begin a years-long effort to rebuild its missiles and UAV (drone) forces," she said.

The 2-1/2-hour hearing was the first significant public appearance since the start of the war by Gabbard.

No foreign threats to Nov polls

The US intelligence community has identified no foreign threat to the upcoming congressional elections in Nov, Gabbard said. US senator Mark Warner said this was the first time since 2017 that the annual US threat assessment did not mention any foreign election interference. AGENCIES

'China and Russia developing systems that can bypass US missile defences'

▶Continued from P 1

Gabbard also said that the threats to the US were set to expand collectively from more than 3,000 missiles at present to more than 16,000 missiles by 2035. "The US secure nuclear deterrent continues to ensure safety in the homeland against strategic threats. However, Russia, China, North Korea, Iran and Pakistan have been researching and developing an array of novel, advanced, or traditional missile delivery systems with nuclear and conventional payloads that put our homeland within range," Gabbard said.

"The IC assesses that China and Russia are developing advanced delivery systems meant to be capable of penetrating or bypassing US missile defences," Gabbard said. She said that North Korea's ICBMs can already reach US soil.

"Pakistan's long-range missile development potentially could include ICBMs with the range capable of striking US," Gabbard said. PTI

About 90 ships crossed Strait of Hormuz despite war, finds report

Hong Kong: About 90 ships including oil tankers have crossed the Strait of Hormuz since the outset of the war with Iran and it is still exporting millions of barrels of oil at a time when the waterway has been effectively closed, according to maritime and trade data platforms. Many of the vessels that passed through the strait were so-called "dark" transits evading Western govt sanctions and oversight that likely have ties to Iran, maritime data firm Lloyd's List Intelligence said.

More recently, vessels with ties to India and Pakistan have also successfully crossed the strait as govts stepped up negotiations. Most shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, a waterway for global oil and gas transport that supplies roughly one-fifth of the world's crude oil, has been halted since early March. About 20 vessels have been attacked in the area.

However, Iran has still managed to export well above 16 million barrels of oil since the beginning of March, trade data and analytics platform Kpler estimated. Due to Western sanctions and associated risks, China has been the biggest buyer of Iranian oil. There has been "continued resilience" in Iran's oil export volumes, said Kpler trade risk analyst. REUTERS

US carrier involved in Iran war heads to port after fire

The US navy's most advanced aircraft carrier is retreating from the Red Sea after a fire broke out in its laundry room, scuttling plans for the 100,000-tonne nuclear-powered vessel to project power in the war with Iran.

Following the incident, which left at least two of the ship's 4,000 crew members with non-life-threatening injuries, the USS Gerald Ford will travel to the Greek island of Crete, according to a US official familiar with the matter. The ship had stopped there in late Feb on its way to the region.

The incident underscores how even the navy's most advanced assets are under strain as the US expands its military endeavours. The Ford — the most expensive warship ever built — has spent months beyond a standard deployment at sea. The US military declined to comment on the details of the fire, but NYT reported that sailors needed more than 30 hours to put it out, and more than 600 crew members lost their bunk space. When reached for comment, the navy declined to comment on the carrier's condition, or whether its escort ships will remain in the Red Sea. The Ford's departure leaves only one US carrier, the USS Abraham Lincoln, to support the Iran war.

Reuters

USS Gerald Ford is the most expensive warship ever built

Aircraft carriers are among the US military's most in-demand assets. They function as mobile airbases, but only a limited number are available at any given time due to global commitments and maintenance cycles. The Ford is accompanied by guided missile destroyers, and its associated air wing includes F/A-18E and F/A-18F Super Hornets, E-2D airborne early-warning aircraft, as well as MH-60S and MH-60R Seahawk helicopters and C-2A Greyhounds.

The Ford is also struggling with practical challenges. In Jan, National Public Radio reported that the warship was dealing with a faulty plumbing system that had failed repeatedly while at sea. The navy acknowledged the issue, but said the ship had "processed more than 6 million toilet flushes," and added that sailors were usually to blame. BLOOMBERG

Pak, Af to pause fighting for Eid, as dispute rages over Kabul blast target

Kabul/Karachi: Pakistan and Afghanistan said they were pausing their military operations against each other on Wednesday for the Islamic festival of Eid-al-Fitr, a surprise move two days after a drug rehab centre in Kabul was hit in the deadliest strike in months.

The Afghan Taliban govt has said that more than 400 people were killed and 265 wounded in the airstrike that took place on Monday night. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said Wednesday that 143 people were killed and 119 wounded in the attack.

Pakistani information minister Attaullah Tarar said Islamabad was pausing the military operations due to Eid. The pause, he said, was on Pakistan's own initiative and at the request of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkiye. The Taliban followed with a similar announcement. Kabul was calling a temporary halt to defensive operations on the occasion of Eid and also at the request of Saudi Arabia, Turkiye and Qatar, Taliban govt spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said. REUTERS

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL — SANDEEP ADHWARYU

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...THE GREATEST, STRONGEST LEADER THIS PLANET HAS EVER SEEN...
...YOU NINCOMPOOPS SHOULD BE JUMPING, CRAWLING... WHATEVER IT TAKES...
...TO HELP ME...
US
STRAIT OF HORMUZ
OMAN
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Berlin airport faces shutdown as labour union stages protest

Berlin Brandenburg airport faced a complete shutdown Wednesday as a planned labour strike led to flight cancellations and disrupted plans for more than 50,000 travellers. No regular passenger services operated Wednesday after the union Verdi called on airport employees to stage a warning strike as it seeks higher wages.

"We consider a warning strike to be disproportionate — especially due to the Iran war," said Aletta von Massenbach, chair of the airport operator's management board. However, she expressed confidence an agreement could be reached in the next round of talks on March 25. BLOOMBERG

US to require $15k bond to visa recipients from 12 more countries

Washington: President Trump's administration will require citizens from 50 countries to post bonds of $15,000 to apply for US entry, a state department official said on Wednesday. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said 12 countries are being added to a list that already includes 38 other nations, largely in Africa.

The expanded visa bond programme, which requires those foreign nationals to pay $15,000 for a B1 or B2 visa for business and tourism, goes into effect on April 2. The aim is to prevent visitors from overstaying their visas, the official said. The new nations included in the visa bond programme are Cambodia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Grenada, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, and Tunisia.

The official said bonds will be returned to visa recipients who return home in compliance with the terms of the visa and the bond, or do not travel in the first place. The state department official said the programme has cut the number of people who overstay their visas. REUTERS

PIO congressman Krishnamoorthi loses Illinois Senate primary

Washington: Democrat Congressman **Raja Krishnamoorthi** has lost the Illinois primary race to Lt Gov Juliana Stratton, who bagged the party nomination for the US Senate elections for the seat vacated by incumbent Dick Durbin.

Stratton, who had the support of Illinois governor JB Pritzker, had been lagging Krishnamoorthi in polling until recent weeks. However, a fresh infusion of funds from the governor and a hardening sentiment on immigration issues pushed aside four-term Congressman Krishnamoorthi's campaign. With 92% of votes counted, Stratton had polled over 40%, while Krishnamoorthi bagged 33.2%.

Born in 1973 in New Delhi, Krishnamoorthi came to the US as a three-month-old with his father. "Only in America can an immigrant with 29 letters in his name go from public housing to the halls of Congress. I will continue to fight for the US," he said. PTI

3 PIO men killed in Canada within a week

Ottawa: Three India-origin persons were killed in Canada during the last seven days — two cases of homicide, while one died in a group clash — even as their friends worry they were the target of a racial hate crime, according to media reports.

Edmonton resident Birinder Singh, 22, was shot and killed while driving on a highway south of Leduc on March 14; while on March 13, Davinder Singh, 31, died during a workplace shooting at North Battleford, Saskatchewan, and Gurkirat Singh Manocha, 25, became a victim of an "altercation" outside Fort St John the same day.

Birinder's friend, who was in the car with him and another friend, was quoted as saying by Global News Tuesday., "We just heard a gunshot, and within a minute, everything happened." They were headed to the mountains when a truck pulled up beside their car. Birinder's friends said they had never seen the people in the truck before, and in the absence of any explanation, they wonder if race could be the motivation, the channel reported.

In the second case, in Canada's British Columbia, student Gurkirat Singh Manocha, who had relocated to Fort St John to pursue a business management degree, was fatally injured during an altercation at the Charlie Lake boat ramp around 11.10pm on Friday, BC Wire news portal said on Monday. RCMP officers arrived to find him critically wounded, and despite emergency interventions, he could not be saved, it added.

In the third case, CTV News said that Davinder Singh was driving for Crown Cab on March 13 when he responded to a call at the Hitching Post Motel. "Singh had no way of knowing that it would be his last fare. Later, just before 8am, the RCMP were called to the motel with a report of an injured man. Singh was declared dead at the scene by paramedics," CTV News said. SaskToday news portal quoted the RCMP as saying that their probe indicated that one of the two accused allegedly assaulted another individual in the business, and they allegedly confined that individual to a room at the business. PTI

Two Indian-origin men fined in UK of over £1k each for spitting paan

Naomi Canton

London: Two Indian-origin men have been fined over £1,000 each for spiting paan in the London borough of Brent, which is on a campaign blitz to stop the menace. Akshitkumar Bhadre Patel (31), who lives in Edgware, was fined £1,391 (Rs 1.7 lakh) by North West London magistrates' court earlier this month. He failed to appear at his hearing. He was convicted of spitting paan on the road in Kingsbury on June 11, 2025. The fine is £100 (Rs 12,000) but as he didn't pay it and he was taken to court, it increased to £1,391.

Hitesh Patel (32), who lives in Ruislip, was also fined £1,391 at the same court for spitting paan on June 12, 2025 on the road in Wembley Hill. He also did not turn up for his hearing.

Brent Council spends more than £30,000 (Rs 37 lakh) a year on cleaning paan spit, which even high-powered industrial jets are unable to clean off. Enforcement officers patrol to issue a £100 fine to anyone they catch spitting paan. If it does not get paid, the council can prosecute.

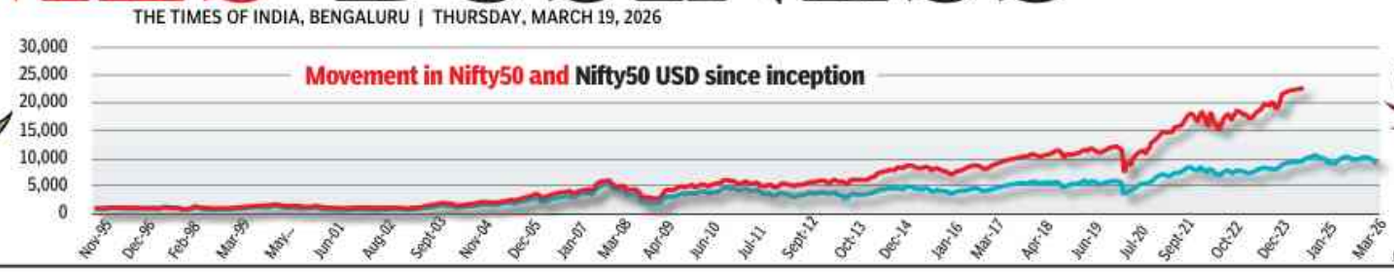
TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

Currency gaps shape India's long-term returns

Nifty has surged 24x since inception, but only 9x in dollar terms, with currency acting as a hidden drag

- Even during strong market phases, rupee depreciation steadily eats into gains
- Recent volatility shows this gap widening as currency weakens during global shocks
- For foreign investors, returns depend as much on forex movement as stock performance
- This explains why FII flows turn volatile despite strong domestic fundamentals



Source: NSE Market Pulse, March 2026 | Vol. 8, Issue 3
Note: Rebased to 1,000 on Nov 3, 1995

War forces rethink on travel insurance cover and limits

Underwriters, Policyholders Weigh Effectiveness Of Plans

Mayur.Shetty
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The conflict in West Asia is prompting both underwriters and policyholders to reassess the efficacy of travel insurance in addressing geopolitical risks, one of the more persistent uncertainties in recent years.

Early signals are visible in claims behaviour. "We have received travel inconvenience claims i.e. flight cancellation, trip cancellation/ interruption, accommodation extension etc. We have already paid quite a few claims and are actively engaging with our customers for processing of the remaining eligible claims," said Chandrakant Said, vice-president, consumer underwriting, Tata AIG. Such claims, linked to disruption rather than physical damage, show how indirect effects of conflict tend to surface first on insurers' books.

For now, the direct financial impact remains limited. "The Iran conflict highlights the long-term need for sharper assessment of geopolitical risks by insurers. In the immediate term, however, we are not seeing much travel activity in affected regions, so the direct impact on claims and demand remains limited," said Anup Rau, MD & CEO, Generali Central Insurance. Lower travel volumes have helped contain both claims and fresh policy issuance. The episode is also exposing a gap between customer expectations and policy design. "Travellers should also recognise that most standard travel and health insurance policies worldwide exclude losses arising directly from acts of war or military conflict, making it essential to carefully review policy terms to understand what is and isn't covered," said Rau. What was once seen as a remote risk is now becoming a contractual constraint for many buyers. Insurers are responding by tightening underwriting filters. According to Amarnath Saxena, chief technical officer, Bajaj General Insurance, even before the crisis in Iran began, certain countries such as Iran, Yemen, Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan have historically been excluded from coverage due to long-standing security considerations.

For other countries in the region, including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Oman, Bahrain, Israel, Lebanon, Qatar, and Kuwait, policies had been issued earlier under standard underwriting norms. However, with the situation evolving and travel advisories changing, new policy issuance for these destinations has been paused, while many travellers who had already booked trips are opting to cancel their policies.

Even so, the boundary between covered and excluded risks remains nuanced. "It is important to note that not every disruption linked to a region experiencing conflict is automatically excluded. If a traveller's plans are affected by airline operational decisions, political developments, adverse weather conditions, or other factors not directly linked to war, the policy protections generally continue to apply," said Saxena. Meanwhile, consumer behaviour is adjusting in real time. Bajaj General has received 2,500 cancellation requests, resulting in refunds of Rs 1 crore, as travellers defer or abandon plans. The immediate effect is a drop in premiums linked to affected geographies.

COS SEE DROP IN PREMIUM COLLECTION

- The West Asia crisis is **exposing a gap between customer expectations and policy design**
- **Most travel policies today exclude risks associated with war** at a time when geopolitical threats are the biggest uncertainty for flyers
- **Tata AIG** has largely received travel inconvenience claims that is flight cancellation, trip cancellation/ interruption, accommodation extension etc this month
- **Bajaj General Insurance** has received **2,500 cancellation requests,** resulting in **refunds of Rs 1 crore,** as travellers defer or abandon plans
- The **immediate effect is a drop in premiums** linked to affected geographies

Rupee falls to a new low of 92.63 vs dollar

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The rupee closed at a record low of 92.63 per dollar on Wednesday, breaching its previous low of 92.48 and ending 26 paise lower than Monday's close of 92.37, as the ongoing West Asia conflict and elevated oil prices continued to pressure the currency.

Dealers said the fall came despite a rally in equities and was triggered by stop-loss levels, financial year-end dollar demand, and weak trade data. "The rate at which FPIs have been selling in March, unless there is a de-escalation in the Gulf region, outflows could hit $10bn this month – the highest in history," said KN Dey, a forex consultant. He added that under the circumstances there is a possibility of the rupee breaching 93.

The rupee has declined over 1.5% since the onset of conflict with nearly $8 billion of foreign portfolio outflows from equities adding pressure. RBI's intervention has helped limit sharper depreciation. Rising crude prices have added to external vulnerabilities.

Brent crude has climbed about 40% since the conflict began, raising risks of a wider current account deficit and higher inflation.

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Fed holds rates steady, still projects one cut in '26

Federal Reserve officials left interest rates unchanged and continued to expect one rate cut this year as they acknowledged increased uncertainty due to war in the Middle East.

"The implications of developments in the Middle East for the US economy are uncertain," officials said Wednesday in a post-meeting statement. "The committee is attentive to the risks to both sides of its dual mandate."

The Federal Open Market Committee voted 11-1 to hold the benchmark federal funds rate in a range of 3.5% to 3.75%. Governor Stephen Miran dissented, calling for a quarter-point reduction.

This marks the second straight time officials held rates in place, though the economic backdrop has changed significantly since their last meeting. In January, policymakers signaled growing confidence the unemployment rate was stabilizing. Soon after, several officials sounded intent on holding rates for an extended period to help nudge inflation lower. Then came a weak February employment report that cast fresh doubt on the steadiness of the labor market. US-Israeli strikes against Iran that began Feb. 28 have also caused global oil prices to surge, threatening to boost inflation and undermine growth and employment. BLOOMBERG

Manipal Hospitals eyes ₹11,000-crore initial public offer

Shilpa.Phadnis
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Manipal Hospitals is set to file its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) this week for an IPO expected to raise about Rs 10,500–11,000 crore, potentially the largest public offering in India's healthcare sector.

The issue will include an offer-for-sale component of around Rs 2,000 crore, while a large portion of the proceeds will be used to retire about Rs 8,000 crore of debt and fund inorganic expansion opportunities, sources told **TOI**. Kotak is the lead banker for the IPO. When TOI reached out to Manipal Hospitals, the management said it has no comments to offer.

With a network of nearly 50 hospitals and around 13,000 beds, Manipal Hospitals has recently surpassed Apollo Hospitals in scale, becoming the country's largest hospital chain by bed capacity. The hospital chain recently acquired a 100% stake in Sahyadri Hospitals for about Rs 6,000–Rs 6,400 crore. Three years ago, Temasek Holdings acquired a majority stake in Manipal Health Enterprises for over $2 billion, then the largest deal in India's healthcare sector, valuing the company at around $5 billion.

The group traces its origins to Udupi, where T M A Pai founded Kasturba Medical College in 1953, laying the foundation for the education hub that later became Manipal. In 1991, Ramdas Pai launched Manipal Hospitals to expand into healthcare. Manipal Hospitals has followed a "string of pearls" acquisition strategy to expand its footprint across India. The group acquired Columbia Asia Hospitals' India operations for over Rs 2,000 crore. In 2021, Manipal acquired Vikram Hospital from Multiples Private Equity in a deal valued at around Rs 360 crore.

A large portion of the proceeds will be used to retire about Rs 8,000 cr of debt

In 2023, it further expanded by acquiring an 84% stake in AMRI Hospitals in Kolkata for about Rs 2,400 crore, strengthening its presence in eastern India and becoming the largest hospital chain in the region for tertiary and quaternary care. Manipal Hospitals also signed an agreement to acquire an 87% stake in Medica Synergie in 2024. While the financial details were not disclosed, sources told TOI the deal is estimated to be worth around Rs 1,400 crore. With new greenfield projects in Bengaluru and Mumbai, the group expects its footprint to expand to about 15,000 beds, including a planned 300–500-bed tertiary care hospital in Raipur.

KKR to invest up to $310mn in PMI Electro and Allfleet

Mumbai: Private equity (PE) firm KKR will invest up to $310 million in PMI Electro Mobility and its electric bus operating platform Allfleet, marking the PE giant's first climate transition investment in India. As part of the deal, the bulk of the funding will go to Allfleet with KKR acquiring a majority stake in the entity. It will also acquire a minority stake in PMI Electro, the company said in a statement on Wednesday, without disclosing the specifics. Delhi-based PMI Electro manufactures electric commercial vehicles.

Under its global climate transition investment strategy, KKR essentially looks to invest in companies building solutions to support decarbonisation across sectors. The idea is to back growth infrastructure opportunities which require a significant amount of capital. The funding from KKR will allow the company to expand its footprint across cities, said Aanchal Jain, CEO at PMI Electro and director at Allfleet. TNN

PhysicsWallah gets ₹263.3cr I-T notice

New Delhi: PhysicsWallah has received an income tax demand notice of Rs 263.3 crore for the assessment year 2023-24. The demand was raised after the Income Tax Department treated investments received by the company from investors during the period, the edtech company said in a exchange regulatory filing. AGENCIES

Sensex rises 633 pts; Brent shoots up 5%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Rising for the third consecutive session, sensex gained 633 points to close at 76,704 points. In three sessions this week, the index has added a little over 2,100 points (nearly 3%) even as the war in West Asia continues. Foreign funds remained net sellers on Wednesday and have taken out net funds worth about Rs 16,800 crore (about $1.8 billion) since the conflict began.

According to Siddhartha Khemka of Motilal Oswal Financial Services, after this three-day rebound, due mainly to supportive global cues, investors are expected to remain cautious with markets remaining sensitive to developments in the Gulf, movements in crude oil prices and continuing foreign fund activity. "While a near-term relief rally may persist, its sustainability will depend on de-escalation in geopolitical tensions and moderation in energy prices," Khemka said. Updates on the India–US trade agreement and the Federal Reserve interest rate decision will also be important triggers for investors, he said.

Broad-based gains lift investor wealth even as geopolitical risks and crude surge keep sentiment cautious

The day's rally in the sensex came on the back of a net domestic fund inflow worth Rs 3,253 crore while foreign funds recorded a net outflow worth Rs 2,714 crore, BSE data said. Unlike in the past two sessions, Wednesday's rally was across the board with 24 of the sensex stocks closing higher. In the broader market, gainers outnumbered losers at a ratio of nearly 3:1 with 3,169 advances to 1,130 declines, BSE data showed. The broad-based rally also added Rs 5.7 lakh crore to investors' wealth with BSE's market capitalisation now at Rs 439 lakh crore, official data showed.

The day's rally on D-Street also discounted the sharp rise in crude oil prices. Late in the session, Brent was up more than 5% at around $108/barrel while WTI crude was up 2% at around $98 level.

Conflict may hit India Inc's Q4 margins

Reeba.Zachariah
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Corporate India is bracing for margin pressure in its fourth-quarter earnings as the escalating conflict in West Asia drives up energy prices, raising input costs for companies heavily reliant on crude oil and natural gas, and stoking broader inflation. Sectors such as aviation, fertilizers, chemicals, paints, tyres, ceramics, logistics and glass face heightened volatility in both revenues and profitability as global energy markets tighten.

"Corporates with backward linkages, strategic inventory and hedging capabilities will weather the storm better than others," said Crisil Intelligence senior director Miren Lodha. However, the immediate impact may remain contained in the March quarter as companies are still drawing from existing inventories and hedged positions. "Given just one month of conflict-related supply constraints and existing raw material, Q4 impact will be limited. The real pressure will build through fiscal 2027 as inventory cycles deplete and replacement costs rise," said Lodha.

Crisil projects "a 40–60 basis points decline in operating profit margins for corporate India in FY 2027 relative to FY 2026." The surge in energy prices compounds existing pressures from higher metal costs. "Base metals like copper, aluminium, etc. had already shot up earlier and now crude oil is moving up. Most daily items of use have some or the other derivative of crude going into it. A rally in crude prices will increase input costs of most of these companies," said Samco Securities' head of market perspectives and research Apurva Sheth.

The knock-on effect could extend beyond production costs in Q4. "A rally in crude oil prices is likely to stoke inflation, which is going to have an impact on the purchasing power of consumers. Higher inflation also means that the RBI will hold on to rates for longer or, maybe, it might even be forced to hike rates. This will lead to increased interest costs for corporates," Sheth added. Energy costs comprise over 20% of input costs for companies in fertilizer, paints, tyres, ceramics and glass sectors. Since most manufacturers, operate with 60–90 day inventory cycles, the full impact may not yet be visible in the Q4 numbers. "Q4FY26 margins will be modestly better year-on-year, but sequential pressure is real. The full crude spike impact will bleed into Q1FY27, which faces a materially tougher raw material environment unless the Hormuz disruption gets resolved quickly," Sheth added.

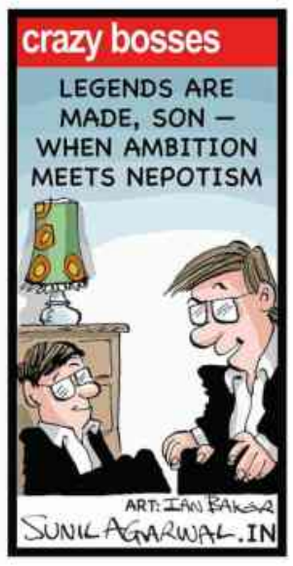
Energy companies present a mixed picture. "Upstream companies like ONGC and Oil India benefit from the crude price spike in March, helping offset a quieter Jan–Feb period," said Sheth. Downstream oil marketing companies (OMCs) may face pressure if retail fuel prices remain capped despite higher crude costs, while gas utilities are particularly vulnerable due to rising LNG prices.

SEQUENTIAL PRESSURE MAY BUILD IN FY27

1. Surging energy prices may dent cos' Q4 margins by driving up input costs and broader inflation
2. Immediate impact may be limited using existing inventories but pressure might spillover to Q1FY27

Mixed impact on energy cos:

- **Upstream cos like ONGC, Oil India** to gain from crude price spike, **renewable energy cos may benefit** as consumers turn to alternative fuels
- **Downstream OMCs may face strain** if retail fuel prices stay capped despite oil surge. **Gas utilities vulnerable** due to rising LNG prices, inability to pass costs



After two attempts, Centre fails to divest IDBI Bank

Sidhartha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Ten years later and after two attempts, govt has failed to privatise IDBI Bank, the perpetual problem child, leaving potential bidders fatigued and raising questions over the process as well as future disinvestment plans.

It wasn't the first time that the Centre tried to exit IDBI Bank, with the plan first announced by former finance minister Arun Jaitly in 2016 scuttled by civil servants and bank executives, who cited possible controversy over real estate assets, including some apartments in South Mumbai and other parts.

Five years later, the Modi govt again cleared the plan and IDBI Bank was the only privatisation plan, which kept moving, while others kept failing as departments kept blocking them. When the process started, the bank's shares were trading at Rs 31 and had four players in the fray—Oaktree Capital, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Emirates NBD and Fairfax. Over the next four years they continued with due diligence as the process went through multiple twists and turns. Oaktree was the first to drop out.

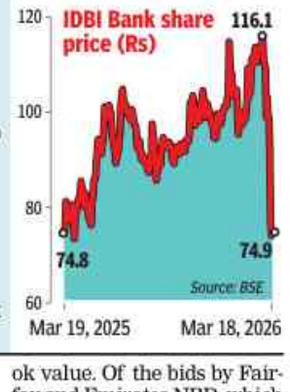
The bank clearly offered a good opportunity to overseas players to enter the rapidly growing Indian market, and were willing to accept indemnities for past litigations, including a potential $1 billion outstanding tax claims. Some of them were also willing to overlook other challenges such as reservation policies and restrictions on reworking staff-related policies for two years. There were also going to be challenges related to employee culture.

Those familiar with the sale process said that bidders and transaction advisors estimated the book value of shares at around Rs 55-60, against the reported book value of Rs 67, prompting Kotak Mahindra to back out. The reserve price was fixed at over Rs 94 a share—a 41% premium to book value. Of the bids by Fairfax and Emirates NBD, which were rejected, one was said to be at 10% discount to the current book value, while the other was at a 10-12% premium. What complicated the matter for the committee of secretaries, which took a call on rejecting the bids, was the market price of IDBI shares, which soared 59% from under Rs 73 a year ago to over Rs 116 on Feb 27. With a 5.3% public float, it did not take significant volumes to be traded for the share to move up or down and market players raised the price in anticipation of the sale.

Not surprisingly, since last Friday the bank's shares have fallen nearly 19% to less than Rs 75, the closing price on BSE on Wednesday.

'MISSED OPPORTUNITY'

- Feb 2016 | Arun Jaitley announces IDBI Bank stake sale, faced resistance from govt officials
- July 2018 | LIC steps in to buy majority stake in bank, despite over ₹8,000cr loss in move seen to have been pushed by govt
- Feb 2021 | Nirmala Sitharaman announces plan for strategic disinvestment
- May 2021 | Cabinet nod given, LIC also decides to join stake sale plan
- March 2026 | Officers' panel reject bids, cite higher reserve price



Nazara to acquire 50% stake in European gaming cos for ₹918 cr

Shilpa.Phadnis
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Nazara Technologies has signed agreements to acquire a 50% stake in European mobile gaming firms Bluetile Games and BestPlay Systems for Rs 918 crore. The acquisition is expected to create a scalable platform for AI-enabled game development, distribution and publishing across Nazara's global gaming portfolio. The company said it plans to acquire the remaining 50% stake by 2027–28.

Bluetile operates a diversified portfolio of globally popular casual and social mobile games, including titles such as Yatzy, Domino Legends, Mahjong Voyage and Spade Stars. The platform has achieved global scale with nearly 375 million downloads and about 22 million monthly active users across 17 live games. BestPlay, its in-house rewarded engagement platform, adds another 2.2 million monthly active users and acts as a cross-promotion and user acquisition engine across the company's gaming portfolio. The company is led by Raymond Stauffer.

Nazara CEO **Nitish Mittersain** said the European gaming company generated about Rs 1,405 crore in revenue in 2025, with an EBITDA of around Rs 254 crore.

HDFC Bank chairman quits in sudden move

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Atanu Chakraborty on Wednesday resigned as the non-executive chairman of HDFC Bank with immediate effect, citing concerns over "internal practices", in a development that could raise fresh questions over governance at a systemically important institution.

The bank said Chakraborty, a retired civil servant, had stepped down as part-time chairman and independent director. The former economic affairs secretary had joined the board in May 2021 and served as chairman through a period that included the merger of HDFC with the bank. The bank said RBI has approved the appointment of Keki Mistry as interim part-time chairman for three months, effective March 19, 2026. The merger, under Chakraborty's watch, created a financial conglomerate and made HDFC Bank the second largest lender in the country, according to his resignation letter.

> Certain happenings and practices within the bank, that I have observed over last two years, are not in congruence with my personal values and ethics
>
> —Atanu Chakraborty, citing this as the reason for quitting as part-time chairman and independent director of the bank

The bank said Chakraborty had resigned, stating that "certain happenings and practices within the bank... are not in congruence with my personal values and ethics," and clarified that there were no other material reasons for his resignation. His exit comes as a surprise given that he had been reappointed with RBI approval for a term extending to May 2027, underscoring the abrupt nature of the move at a bank that accounts for about 15% of the country's deposits.

A thought for today

The direct use of force is such a poor solution to any problem, it is generally employed only by small children and large nations

DAVID FRIEDMAN

Scary Middle Game

Iran war enters a troubling stage, where most likely outcomes look more destabilising than US planned for

If war is a game of chess, Iran conflict has moved beyond its opening gambits into a tense, intricate middle game – where every move carries layered consequences, and no outcome is guaranteed. The early phase was dramatic and decisive: US and Israel eliminated Ayatollah Khamenei, in a stunning strike. That momentum continued. On Tuesday, Ali Larijani, a key figure in Iran's national security establishment, was killed. Soon after, intelligence minister Esmaeil Khatib met a similar fate. Israel has hinted more such moves are coming, keeping adversaries guessing. Meanwhile, a US naval vessel – believed to be carrying marines – edges closer to West Asia, fuelling speculation of a possible ground operation inside Iran.

Nearly three weeks into the conflict, certain realities are becoming clearer. First, air power alone – even when precise and relentless – rarely delivers regime change. History offers no convincing example of regimes collapsing solely under aerial assault. While Iran's leadership has been significantly degraded, and institutions like Basij are under pressure, the system has shown resilience. New figures are stepping in, almost as quickly as others are removed, suggesting depth within the regime's structure.

If outright regime change through military strikes seems unlikely, the alternative being floated is more volatile: internal collapse via civil unrest. Both Trump and Netanyahu have called for Iranians to rise against their leadership. Netanyahu's appeal to public celebrations like Nowruz may not be cultural – it may be strategic, hoping that gatherings could ignite dissent. Yet, recent history tempers such expectations. Protests earlier this year were met with brutal force, reportedly leaving tens of thousands dead. Though weakened, the regime still commands powerful instruments of repression. An uprising, if it occurs, could spiral not into reform – but into chaos.

And that chaos would not remain contained. Iran has already signalled its capacity for escalation – targeting Gulf states, and disrupting Strait of Hormuz, sending shockwaves through global energy markets. A full-scale civil war could ignite sectarian tensions, across the region, turning instability into a wildfire. For Gulf nations, this is an uncomfortable bind: uninvolved in the war's initiation, yet deeply affected by its consequences. Their calls for restraint – to both Washington and Tehran – have so far gone unheard.

Yes, the board is set, major pieces are in motion. But in this dangerous middle game, the final outcome remains uncertain – and potentially far more destabilising than opening moves suggested.

Working With Hands

Skilled physical work isn't a social stigma. India has to fix its thinking, if more young people are to find jobs

Azim Premji University's State of Working India 2026, highlights a key point, which explains why India struggles to fix its 40-year-old problem of joblessness. Apart from structural challenges and gaps, the report talks of the need for "an attitude shift in society" on what counts as "knowledge", and what's "dignified work". Caste, class and colonial legacies inform, to this day, what work is "respectable". Only 6.7% young graduates, aged 20-29, had permanent salaried jobs in 2023. About 40% are unemployed. Less than half had some form of work: self-employed or ready to be underemployed, as a way of getting a foot in the door marked 'better prospects'. Of course, high levels of unemployment among graduates are not uniquely an Indian phenomenon. But, the sheer volume of India's working-age population, makes unemployability a crisis.

Look at the numbers – India's 367mn-strong working-age population (aged 15-29), is about 20mn *more* than US's population. Keeping out those in school and college, there are 263mn in the workforce. By 2036, the report estimates, graduates will be 38% of employable men, up from 26% in 2023, in age group 20-24. Among men aged 25-29, share of graduates is projected to rise from about 30% to 42% by 2036. It simply cannot be business as usual.

The idea that "head work" is superior to "hand work", putting higher value on mental labour than on physical labour, is defined both by caste and class. Graduates from middle classes and aspiring middle classes aspire to "head work". Status is a prime consideration, for jobs that will pass family and society's approval. There is near contempt for hand work. The report says skill training, vocational and technical, must be made aspirational. Formalising jobs, that such training attracts, is key. The world of work has to be made class- and caste-agnostic.

Fine print, finer trap

On the great maya of travel insurance

Saurabh.Sinha@timesofindia.com

Main Hoon Na. Never take this assurance at face value, unless it's given by SRK. I learnt about this relatively unknown fifth law of Newton the hard way, after buying travel insurance for an overseas trip, last month.

The policy worked very well as long as the trip went smoothly. At dinner on the last night of my stay, I got a message from the airline that my next morning flight back home was cancelled, due to a strike at the airport. And the airline said they wouldn't provide a hotel, as the cancellation wasn't their doing.

No problem, *wo hai na*, I told myself, thinking of the insurance that covered, among other things, flight delays and cancellations. After making arrangements for the prolonged stay, I called the insurance company, which told me I was eligible for $40 compensation, for every four hours of delay.

Since that covered my unplanned expenses, I happily stayed on, and was a little heartbroken when the airline sent a mail next evening, saying I was booked on the next morning flight – a total delay of 24 hours. "Just keep the boarding cards as proof. We are there for you," the insurance portal told me, just like SRK in the movie had assured his stepbrother.

After filing the claim on returning to India, it was my turn to get the stepbrotherly treatment. "In the present case, as per the email from the airline, we note that you were informed more than six hours prior to the scheduled departure of the flight. Hence the claim is not admissible under the policy," the claim rejection letter said.

"Is that fair?" I asked the insurance portal person, who seemed to agree with me, but blamed the fine print. Now, for future trips, I have created a foolproof checklist to escape dodgy fine print clauses. Block the airline from contacting me till I enter the six-hour departure window. Carry extra khakhra, mathri, and a mini tent on future trips, to resist expenses if my flight is cancelled. Use the policy document carefully, to put the khakhra and achaar on.

In *Love and Death*, Woody Allen says: "There are worse things in life than death. Have you ever spent an evening with an insurance salesman?" While I love the man and his movies, I won't blame the salesman. After all, don't shoot the messenger.

War Or Peace: Brains Of Nations

Behavioural science has an interesting take on why countries like US, Russia are now totally ignoring a rules-based system: old habits change when new rewards seem, even if wrongly, more lucrative than older ones

Arindam Goswami

Charles Duhigg, in *The Power of Habit*, says that most human behaviour follows a simple loop: a cue triggers an action, a routine follows, and a reward tells the brain if it should remember it. Habits, once formed, do not go away. They can be changed. By swapping in a new routine, while keeping the same cue and reward. This idea also explains why the international order after World War II worked well for a time, and why it is now facing problems. The habit of cooperation has quietly been replaced, by the habit of conflict.

After 1945, leaders like Truman, Marshall, Monnet, and Adenauer knew they couldn't erase centuries of distrust between countries. Instead, they changed how countries handled problems. Earlier, political disputes or trade issues often led to military action, and appeals to national pride. The new approach replaced that with legal processes, treaty obligations, or turning to Brussels.

The reward was access to European markets, reconstruction funds, and political legitimacy. This system kept peace in Western Europe for 70 years. It was the habit of cooperation, not just good intentions, that made the difference.

Image: AI

This same habit framework helps explain why the international order is falling apart today. Russia's invasion of Ukraine, violence in Gaza, and American actions – whether in Venezuela, Iran, or pulling back from global institutions – all show a pattern: powerful countries have decided that breaking the rules now brings more benefits, than following them.

Duhigg points out that habits break down when the rewards change. The post-war system relied on rewards like trade, development money, security, and diplomatic status, which worked when US and its allies dominated the global economy. That dominance is now being challenged. For instance, now, China offers its own rewards, Gulf money moves without democratic rules, and IMF has less influence as new lenders appear. Following the rules no longer always pays off, and international institutions have not kept up.

Some might ask if any of this matters, since powerful countries like US, China, and Russia set the rules anyway. That's a fair question, but it confuses short-term gains with long-term interests. US's real strengths today are not just military – they include dollar's global role, deep capital markets, demand for American tech, and alliances that make its military power effective. All these depend on a stable, rules-based world. When that system breaks down and contracts, or norms are ignored, US and its economy also suffer.

Now, to bring about change, a good starting point is to look at what behavioural economists call defaults and friction. Right now, if a country faces a border dispute, it can choose international arbitration, but that process is slow and uncertain, with no clear reward. If a country breaks international law, it often just waits to see if anyone reacts, which rarely happens.

To change this, we need to redesign the system, so that following the rules is automatic and brings quick rewards, while breaking the rules leads to immediate costs. This could mean preset actions like trade suspensions, freezing assets, or cutting off access to financial systems, instead of waiting for slow UN Security Council decisions. This idea is already used in bond markets, where countries that default on debt, see instant changes in pricing.

The same idea works for rewards. Countries that follow international law – by settling disputes peacefully, meeting climate targets, and keeping borders open – should get real and immediate benefits. These might be better access to markets, lower borrowing costs, faster tech deals, or priority for development funds. Rewards should come quickly and be updated often, so countries can see the results, and plan ahead. This fits with Duhigg's point that the brain craves rewards. If following the rules clearly brings benefits, and breaking them clearly brings losses, the habit loop will work again.

But Duhigg's biggest insight is about identity, not just rewards or punishments. Alcoholics Anonymous works, because people start to see themselves as non-drinkers, supported by others who share that identity. After World War II, European leaders began to see themselves as Europeans, not just as leaders of their own countries. Today, the international order is struggling not only because its incentives are outdated, but also because the sense of global community has faded. Being called an international outcast does not hurt as much now, since some leaders feel backed by other countries with similar views.

So where should we start? Duhigg suggests looking for a keystone habit – a single change that triggers many others. In global affairs, that keystone is reforming how UN Security Council veto works. For example, a new rule could say that no permanent member can veto a resolution, about a conflict where it is directly involved. Then, Russia could not block action on its own wars, US could not protect its allies' campaigns, and China could not avoid scrutiny of its actions.

Other changes could follow: a system to score countries on compliance, like a credit rating, but for security and humanitarian behaviour; a group of mid-sized democracies able to trigger economic consequences, without needing big-power approval; and special trade and investment deals, for countries with strong compliance records.

This is where India has a unique opportunity, as the world's largest democracy, and a growing economic power, with no ambitions to expand its borders. But to lead, India must make a choice: move from staying on the sidelines, to taking action. India should propose Security Council veto reforms, and bring together a new group of mid-sized, rule-following nations, which together are ready to break free from old habit loops.

The writer is with the High-Tech Geopolitics Programme, Takshashila Institution

'I Visited Tehran In Nov, And It Disproved So Many Stereotypes'

● Many women didn't wear hijab ● Religiosity seemed less overt in most of the city than in some parts of India ● Nightlife was not dead, it was great ● Israel and US were not discussed as hated countries

Sujit.John@timesofindia.com

Beneath the shadow of global headlines, day-to-day reality in Iran has long been at variance with Western narratives. In Nov, when we spent three days in Tehran, one of the first messages I received when I reached – from a friend in US – said the women must all be in hijabs. How wrong that was!

Barring some older women, no one was wearing – forget hijabs – even a scarf over their heads in public places. We were told that in restaurants, if a woman has a scarf covering her head, a young woman might come by, flip it off, and say 'Don't betray the movement'.

This is a reference to the 'Woman, Life, Freedom' movement, triggered by the Sept 2022 death of Mahsa Amini, a young Kurdish-Iranian woman, after her arrest by the police for allegedly wearing the hijab improperly.

Yes, Western sanctions over decades have had a severe impact on the economy. The person assigned to pick me from the airport had some fascination for cars. So, during the one-hour drive to our hotel, he frequently pointed to various car models we passed – mostly European brands. He noted that those models were no longer being produced in Iran, but owners were managing to keep them going, with parts imported from China, or reverse-engineered locally. The cars looked old. Even the one we were sitting in was long past its prime. The few new cars are expensive, imported ones. The city looks old too; modern buildings are few.

But socially, Iran is far from what most of us imagine.

Indian Embassy officials told us Iran is probably less religious today, than India is. One of them said a third of mosques in Tehran have shut down, because nobody goes to them. That's true for mosques across Iran. People who go are mostly those getting financial assistance from govt, distributed through religious bodies. It's one of the conditions of the grant.

Everyone we met spoke of the phenomenal nightlife, all through the week – private parties, dating, music and gatherings. One evening, we were at an open-air food-court. Filled with youngsters – in groups, in pairs, boys and girls. On one table, a young woman sat wearing what looked like a wolf-shaped headgear. We could just as well have been in San Francisco or Bengaluru.

What stood out was also the warmth of ordinary Iranians. Shopkeepers routinely offer items free. We heard stories of cab drivers refusing payment, after learning the passenger was from India.

Image: AI

The conference we went for, while being a demonstration of Iran's strengths in science and tech, was primarily to bring Brics countries, including its researchers, together – to find ways to reduce the world's dependence on the dollar. Iran is looking at crypto and blockchain as an alternative.

Many Iranian govt officials and academics spoke. What was striking was, even though the event was happening less than five months after last year's Israel and US strikes, there were no offensive references to either country, let alone rants. Speeches and discussions were matter-of-fact.

Like when Ali Asghar Ghaemi, member of Tehran City Council, told us: "It's been more than 50 years that our country has had controversies with America. And we have seen the results on the screen, the war, and destruction. So, we are eagerly cooperating with any country that would like to de-dollarise the economy. India has this shared purpose…you have a conflict also with America, and your country could handle it so well."

These and other conversations also come to mind, when today the world talks of the Iranian regime. The West often presents the regime as a monolithic bloc of Islamic fundamentalists. That may be far from the case. Multiple people told us the regime is a mix of hardliners and reformists, and reformists are probably gaining ground. Even hardliners probably aren't as hardline, as they once were.

One senior Indian Embassy personnel had previously been posted in Tel Aviv. We asked the official, who – Iran or Israel – was more delusional about the other side's "evil" intentions. "Both are equally so," was the instant response.

On our return flight was Narjes Mottaghi, a data scientist, and head of ICT dept at Isfahan University of Medical Sciences. She was coming to Bengaluru to meet her Indian-Australian fiancé and his family. Her dream was to be a Nasa scientist – put paid to by US sanctions.

She wears a hijab. "It makes men see me as a human being, not as a woman, not as a pretty face," she explained, but added that she fully supported the 2022 women's protest against the hijab. She told us there are more women than men, in many science and tech universities in Iran. Men are going into business, not doing higher education, leading often to incompatibility in marriages. Divorce rates are near 50%.

On weekends, Narjes drives across Iran alone for adventure sports, sometimes stopping by the side of a highway to sleep. "It's completely safe for women," she said.

The writer was in Iran in Nov, for a blockchain & crypto-currency conference, organised with support from Iranian govt

Calvin & Hobbes

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Sacred*space*

The only means of strengthening one's intellect is to make up one's mind about nothing – to let the mind be a thoroughfare for all thoughts.

John Keats

Can You Control Your Thoughts?

Rajiv Vij

Pause for a moment. Close your eyes and gently observe your thoughts. Do you notice them arising one after another – some linked to the previous one, some disjointed? Are you choosing these thoughts, or are they appearing on their own beyond your control?

Consider your everyday thoughts about the past or future. Thoughts that generate excitement or fear. Thoughts coloured by love, envy, or self-judgement. Don't they seem to arise by themselves? This is clearly noticeable on a sleepless night when an unending stream of thoughts shows up uninvited.

Now consider a situation where you 'consciously' decide to think about something, perhaps planning your weekend. How did even the thought, 'Let me plan my weekend' arise? Did you manufacture it? Or did it simply appear?

Thoughts arise from memory, habit, fear, desire – from everything we have ever experienced. They emerge automatically from the mind's past conditioning, not from a controller consciously choosing and releasing them. Yet from birth, our language and social structures reinforce the sense of an independent thinker who owns and controls these thoughts.

But what power do you actually have over your thoughts? Can you choose your next thought? Did you choose the last one? Or do thoughts simply arise, only to fade away and give way to the next? The continuity and coherence of thoughts create the impression of a thinker. But is it possible that thoughts arise due to conditioning and then another thought subtly appears, claiming 'i am the one thinking'?

It all begins with an experience. Pain is felt, hunger arises, a thought appears. But instead of noticing 'pain', 'hunger', or 'thinking', we learn to say, 'i am in pain', 'i am hungry', 'i am thinking'. Language creates a central reference point for experience – an 'i' to whom everything happens, a thinker behind the thinking.

Over time, memory links experiences together and strengthens the sense of a continuous controller. In the process, an identity forms. Life no longer simply unfolds; it happens to 'me', or is caused by 'me'. An awkward moment becomes 'i am embarrassed', followed by, 'Why am i like this?'

But let's look closely. Is it possible that thinking happens on its own and the sense of a thinker is itself another thought? The narrative of 'i' is surely essential for navigating daily life and operating in a social construct. But when we over-identify with the thinker and take every thought personally, it often becomes a source of emotional struggle and unhappiness.

If thoughts arise on their own, perhaps they don't need to be tightly managed. Perhaps they don't need to define us. We don't need to judge them or ourselves for them. As long as we are alive, just like breathing, thinking continues. But the rigid sense of a thinker can soften. Plans are made, conversations occur, and life goes on. But the underlying tension and the need for control can subside.

Recognising that thoughts arise on their own does not mean we have no responsibility. Actions still have consequences. Conditioning still shapes thinking and behaviour, but responsibility does not require a controlling thinker at the centre – only awareness of what is arising and sensitivity to its effects.

Maybe true inner growth is not about producing more positive thoughts and eliminating negative ones. Maybe it's seeing that each thought arises on its own and need not be taken personally. When thoughts are observed without identification, old patterns can begin to shrink.

The writer is a Singapore-based life coach

Literacy poster boy Kerala now aims to make higher edu free for all

The state, in its budget, has proposed tuition fee waiver for everyone enrolling in govt and aided colleges from the next academic session

Jipson Sikhera

Students at the Maharaja's College in Ernakulam. The college fee waiver would apply to over 270 govt and aided institutions across the state

In Other States...

DELHI: Delhi govt runs scholarships and fee support schemes for economically weaker students

TAMIL NADU: Fee waiver for first-gen graduates, girls in some streams, and SC/ST students

RAJASTHAN: Free education for girls in govt colleges up to post-graduate level

KARNATAKA: Fee reimbursement schemes for backward classes and EWS students

Sreerag.PS@timesofindia.com

At 80, Gopi Das has gone back to college. Every week, he attends classes at Sreenarayanaguru Open University's off-centre at Punnapra in Kerala's Alappuzha district, working his way through a BA in Sociology. English is the hardest part, he admits. Age has made studying slower. But he is determined to continue.

For Gopi, this is about more than a degree. It is about a promise.

He had to stop studying after class 5. Work took priority. But one wish remained with him through the decades: his mother had wanted to see him complete his education.

"To fulfil my mother's wish, I approached the State Literacy Mission," he said. What followed was a remarkable second innings. Gopi completed his class 10 and class 12 equivalency examinations through the mission. Then, he found a route into higher education. He enrolled in the BA Sociology programme through a local initiative linked to Sreenarayanaguru Open University (SGOU), which allowed him to study free of cost.

His story is unusual in one sense — not many undergraduates begin at 80. But in another sense, it captures something much larger that Kerala now wants to test at scale: what happens when higher education is treated not as an expense to be borne by families, but as a public good to be expanded, funded and made genuinely accessible?

A Policy Shift

That question sits at the heart of Kerala's proposal to waive undergraduate tuition fees in govt and govt-aided colleges across the state from the coming academic year in June. Announced in the state budget, the move is expected to benefit around 3 lakh students and cost the state about Rs 5 crore annually.

The proposal still carries an element of uncertainty. Elections are due, and there is no guarantee that a new govt would continue with it in the same form. But as an idea, it marks an ambitious shift. Primary and secondary education in India have long been seen as public obligations. Higher education, even when nominally affordable, has remained the stage at which many students begin to fall away — not necessarily because they lack ability or aspiration, but because college costs compete with household expenses, sibling needs, debt, health emergencies and the daily arithmetic of limited incomes.

3 Lakh Number of students the policy is expected to benefit

₹5 crore Yearly cost of free college education for the state govt

Kerala is now trying to push that boundary further.

The state has 66 govt and 191 aided arts and science colleges, that is, 257 institutions under the Directorate of Collegiate Education. Add 21 govt and aided training colleges, and the number rises to more than 278, apart from several technical and specialised institutions. The proposed fee waiver would apply across this broad system, extending relief not only to first-generation learners and economically vulnerable students, but potentially to anyone for whom even modest tuition costs create hesitation around continuing education.

Who It Could Help

That includes students like 18-year-old Sayanth V from Kannur, now in the first year of a BCom course at Maharaja's College in Ernakulam. His father works as temporary staff at a corporation bank in Kerala. The family manages, but carefully. Fees in govt colleges may not be prohibitively high, he said, yet the waiver would still matter. "I love studying and want to continue as much as I can. For many like me, whose household income is limited, this decision will help us save money for other family expenses," he said.

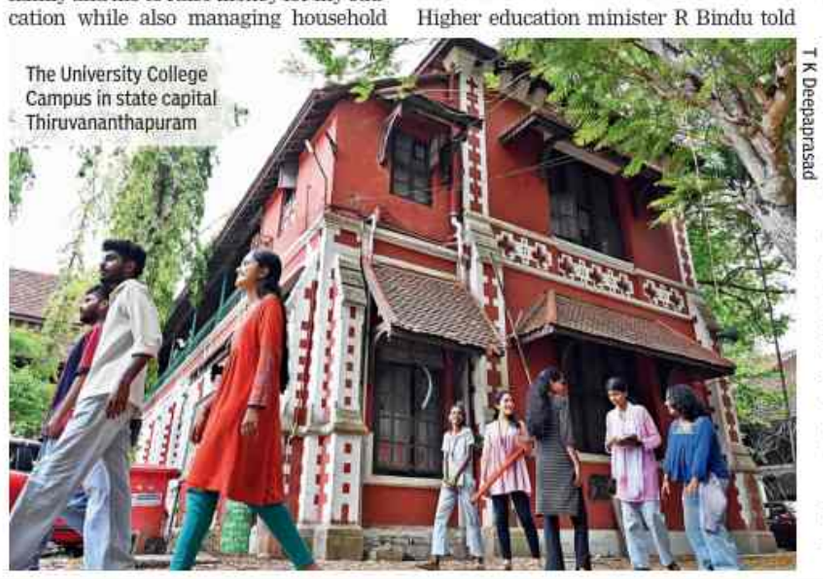
For students at the margins, the significance is even clearer. Sreevidya (name changed), a first-year student at Cochin University of Science and Technology — she comes from a family belonging to the economically weaker section — said the announcement could make a real difference to those trying to balance education and survival. "It's really difficult for my family and me to raise money for my education while also managing household expenses. I hope this will encourage all to complete their graduation," she said.

If Gopi represents a life interrupted and resumed, students like Sayanth and Sreevidya represent the more common, but no less urgent, story: young people who have reached college, but for whom continuity still depends on affordability.

That is one reason Kerala's proposal has generated interest beyond routine budget commentary. It does not merely promise financial relief. It suggests a different public philosophy: that undergraduate education, like school education before it, should be seen as foundational social infrastructure rather than an optional private investment.

Education As A Public Good

Higher education minister R Bindu told **TOI** that the long-term vision is to make higher education accessible to anyone who wishes to pursue it, regardless of age or personal circumstances. Kerala already provides free education up to school level, she said, adding that extending the principle to undergraduate studies was a natural next step. Removing tuition fees, she argued, would eliminate one of the most immediate barriers students face when they consider higher studies.



The University College Campus in state capital Thiruvananthapuram

T K Deepaprasad

The state also points to its record of targeted support. On March 10, the govt awarded Rs 1 lakh each to 2,000 socially and economically marginalised students, Bindu said, describing it as India's highest scholarship distributed at such a scale. The broader thrust, she suggested, has consistently been inclusivity.

In Kerala govt's telling, then, the fee waiver is not an isolated announcement. It is part of a longer political and social commitment to education as mobility, dignity and citizenship.

That is also how some of those involved in grassroots education efforts see it.

I B Sathish, the legislator who coordinated the early 'Ellavarkum Birudam' campaign in six panchayats in Kattakkada, said one of the most striking aspects of the initiative was the response from older learners. "When given an opportunity, even elderly people came forward to pursue a degree. This shows that education is not merely a path to employment, but can play a vital role in moulding citizens," he said.

The Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority has seen evidence of that demand. P Murugadas, its coordinator, said around 1,400 students have enrolled in SGOU this year alone after completing class 12 equivalency examinations conducted by the mission. Those numbers point to a backlog of unrealised aspiration — adults who left school early, but not the wish to study further.

The Quality Question

Still, policy ambition is only one half of the story. The other is capacity.

Historian and scholar Rajan Gurukkal, vice-chairman of the Kerala State Higher Education Council, said the removal of tuition fees could significantly expand access to college education, especially for students from economically weaker sections and rural areas. It could also improve Kerala's gross enrolment ratio in higher education, which the council places at 41.3% in 2024-25 — already above the national average. The policy, he said, may particularly reduce the financial anxieties associated with college for women, and members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other marginalised communities.

But Gurukkal also cautioned that access alone is not enough. If enrolment rises sharply without parallel investments, colleges could face a strain on infrastructure, faculty strength and academic resources. The challenge, he said, lies in balancing expanded access with academic excellence.

That warning is echoed by others in the sector. Amruth G Kumar, professor of education at the Central University of Kerala, called the move progressive, but argued that free education without quality safeguards could weaken confidence in the programmes offered by the state and create openings for private players to profit from that perception.

The concern is not abstract. Several govt and aided colleges in Kerala have seen declining enrolment in recent years. Youth migration for work and study, vacant seats and changing aspirations have all complicated the higher education landscape. A tuition waiver could bring students in, but whether it can renew public confidence in state-run higher education will depend on what accompanies it.

If Kerala follows through, thousands of students may never have to postpone or abandon college for reasons of cost. And some, like Gopi, may discover that the door they thought had closed long ago was never fully shut.

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of A.P. Undertaking)
VIDYUT SOUDHA, VIJAYAWADA-520004

Tender Notice (NIT) No. RFx: 610002244

APGENCO invites Online tenders for "APGENCO- Dr.MVR RTPP-R&M- Laying of second raw water pipe line (1,500 mm dia) from Mylavaram reservoir to RTPP" through APGENCO e-Procurement platform. **Bid Start date & time:** 18-03-2026, 15.00 Hrs. **Pre-Bid meeting date & time**: 26-03-2026 15.00 Hrs. **Bid Submission closing date & time**: 08-04-2026,15.30 Hrs. **Technical RFx Response Opening Date & Time**: 08-04-2026 at 16.00 Hrs. **Price bid opening date & time:** 15-04-2026 at 16.00 Hrs. For further details visit: **www.apgenco.gov.in** or **https://etender.apgenco.gov.in/irj/portal.** Phone: **(0866) 2526813, 2526431.**

DIPR No.4920PP/CL/ADVT/16/2024-25 Dt:18/03/2026

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
NAVRATNA COMPANY
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Website : www.ircon.org, CIN - L45203DL1976GOI008171

e-Procurement Notice

e-Procurement No. IRCON/ELECT/5040/RE NFR PKG2/TWS/T.SHED&QTRS/OT-2. Date: 17.03.2026 e-Open Tender in double packet system for and on behalf of IRCON International Limited is invited from bidders for the work of **"Design & Construction of Tower Wagon Shed & Trip Shed with Laying and linking of Railway Track & other ancillary works, etc. at Karimganj Jn., Ambassa & Agartala and Staff Quarters at Arunachal Jn. of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) (Package-2)."**

Estimated Cost of Work Incl. of all taxes, duties, levies & GST@18%	Rs. 21,14,76,106/-
End Date & Time of e-Bid submission	06.04.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.

For further details, visit website : https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.
Chief General Manager/Electrical/PH,
H.No.-27, Ward No. 25, Tarapur, Chandmani Road Silchar- Assam Pin 788003

IDBI BANK LIMITED
Regd. Off. IDBI Tower, WTC Complex, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai-400 005
CIN No: L65190MH2004GOI148838

TENDER FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING, COMMISSIONING AND CAMC FOR NOTE SORTING MACHINE (1+1, 2+1 & 4+1 POCKET) FOR IDBI BANK BRANCHES/CURRENCY CHESTS PAN INDIA

Tender applications are invited for **supply, installation, testing, commissioning and CAMC for Note Sorting Machine (1+1, 2+1 & 4+1 pocket) for IDBI Bank branches/Currency Chests PAN India.** For details please visit Bank's website **www.idbi.bank.in** (under the link Notices & Tenders) or contact on 022-66552906/66552504/66263569. Last date for submission of application is **on or before April 08,2026 up to 3.00 PM**. Any further Corrigendum in respect of the above shall be posted only on Bank's website and no separate notification shall be issued in the newspapers.
Sd/-
DGM (IMD)

INVEST UP
2nd, 4th & 6th Floor, A-Block, PICUP Bhawan, Vibhuti Khand
Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226 010 (U.P.), 91 522-3129570 & 3117976
E-mail: info@investup.org.in | W: https://invest.up.gov.in/

ADVT No.: 651/Admin/IUP/2025-26 **Dated: 18 March, 2026**

Applications are invited in prescribed format from eligible & experienced candidates for the following posts. Applications will be accepted on Invest UP's website: www.invest.up.gov.in

Sr. No.	Name of Post	Workplace	No. of Post
1	General Manager (Investment Promotion)	Mumbai	01
		Delhi	01
		Bengaluru	01
		Hyderabad	01
		Chennai	01
2	Asst. General Manager (Investment Promotion)	Mumbai	01
		Delhi	01
		Bengaluru	01
		Hyderabad	01
		Chennai	01

- For details of educational/technical qualification, age, eligibility, experience, application format etc. kindly visit Invest UP website https://invest.up.gov.in/career/
- Only online applications shall be accepted for the above posts
- Last date for the submission of online applications is **16.04.2026** by 5:00 PM

Scan here to apply for Above mentioned Posts

Chief Executive Officer, Invest UP

30001/40/2526

DIRECTORATE OF MINES & GEOLOGY
STEEL AND MINES DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
Heads of Department Building, Unit-V, Pin-751001
Tel No.: 0674-2391537, Fax No.: 0674-2391684
E-mail ID: dir.mines@orissaminerals.gov.in/geology.ig@orissaminerals.gov.in
DoMG-INVI-INVG-0105-2025, No. 3453/DoMG, Dt.17.03.2026

TENDER CALL NOTICE

The Directorate of Mines & Geology, Odisha, Heads of Department Building, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar-751001, invites open Tender on behalf of the Governor of Odisha, in two bid system (Technical Bid and Price Bid) from reputed Firms/ Agencies, fulfilling the eligibility criteria to take up **"Diamond Core Drilling & Allied Exploration Work in 7 (Seven) different Mineral Blocks of Odisha."**

The details of Tender / Tender Document shall be available in the Departmental Website **http://www.odishaminerals.gov.in** and there will be no manual sale of Tender Document.

Corrigendum/ Addendum any if required/ Pre-bid clarification or any other notice or correspondence related to this process shall be uploaded in the above website. Hence, interested Firms/ Agencies are requested to be in continuous touch with the above website, for further updates.

The Director of Mines & Geology, Odisha, reserves the right to accept / reject any/all Bids/offers or cancel/ terminate the entire tender process at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

IMPORTANT DATES

1.	Date of Commencement of Process	:	18.03.2026 /10.00 A.M.
2.	Pre-Bid Conference	:	24.03.2026 /11.30 A.M.
3.	Closing date of Submission of Tender (Through Regd. Post/ Speed Post/Courier only)	:	08.04.2026 /05.30 P.M.
4.	Date of Opening of the Tender	:	15.04.2026 /11.30 A.M.

(R. K. Kar)
ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR (GEOLOGY)
OIPR-30001/30001/1/25-26/0006

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

OPEN E-TENDER

No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 09/03/2026. The following **E-Tenders** can be accessed under the link **www.ireps.gov.in.** Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link **www.ireps.gov.in →login →E-Tender Stores/ Supply.** Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding tender or IREPS related information if any, Dy. CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 9163340711 or AMM/M, 9163340706. Office Address: **Office of The PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan. Sl. No.: [1], Tender No.: 75253830C. Brief Description of Item:** Safety Flooring for WAG-9HC Locos to Specn. No. RDSO/2006/CG-12 REV.2 or latest and Drg. No. 1209-18.406-211 Alt.-6. [**Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]. **Quantity: 4357.00 Metre. Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees):** ₹ 216550.00. **Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 27/03/2026 at 11:00 AM.**

PR2/314 PCMM/CLW/CRJ.

"Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways"

Advertisement No. 37/2026

Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of

Director (Finance)
in
Oil India Limited (OIL)

Last date of submission of application by the applicant is by 15:00 hours on
07/04/2026

Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal Officers to PESB is by 17:00 hours on
16/04/2026

For details login to website **https://pesb.gov.in**

30001/41/2526

ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED
OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001,Odisha
CIN: U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcltd.in

ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LTD. — Mining Happiness

Short Notice
For sale of Cement Grade Limestone

The Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd intends to sell Cement grade Limestone produced at Ampavalli Limestone Mines, Ampavalli, Pattangi, Koraput district, Odisha through e-auction which will be conducted by MSTC Ltd. The e-auction shall be held from 11.00 A.M. to 2.00 P.M on dtd.25.03.2026.

For details, please visit the website of MSTC i.e **www.mstcecommerce.com.**

OIPR-30001/30005/1/25-26/0023 **Chief General Manager (S&M)**

34001/219/2526

Mail ID: sepwdbalangir@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
BALANGIR (R&B) CIRCLE: BALANGIR
e-Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION No: CCE(R&B) BGR/20/ 2025-26
Letter No-869 // Dtd. 13.03.2026

The **Chief Construction Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir** on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** for the construction of works detailed in the table below from **"B" and "A" Contractors** registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/ Class registered with Central Government/ MES/ Railways for execution of Civil works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.

1.	Nature of Work	: Building, Bridge Work
2.	No. of tender	: Building work- 2Nos., Bridge Work-1 Nos.
3.	Tender Cost	: Rs.10,000/-
4.	Class of Contractor	: **"B" and "A" Class**
5.	Date & Time of sale & Receipt of Bids	: From Dt. 20.03.2026, 06.55 P.M. to Dt. 06.04.2026 up to 05.00 P.M.
6.	Date of opening Bid	: Dt.07.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M.

7. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: **http://tendersorissa.gov.in**, All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE MODE only.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir.
OIPR-34001/34131/1/25-26/0028

11001/61/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Lokaseva Bhawan, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar-751001
Email ID: hedsec.od@nic.in
HE-GCNE-PLAN-0004-2024/15138/H.E., Bhubaneswar, Dated: 16.03.2026
Addendum-I

NOTICE INVITING RFP FOR ENGAGEMENT OF STATE PSU/ CENTRAL PSU/ DEPARTMENTAL UNDERTAKING AS PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT (PMC) FOR "CONSTRUCTION OF COMPLETE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR 18 NEWLY ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENT COLLEGES, One MDC under RUSA, HOSTELS FOR 11 EXISTING GOVERNMENT HEIs,. 20 HOSTELS FOR AIDED COLLEGES AND SOME OTHER PROJECTS AS AND WHEN REQUIRED".

In continuation to the Request for Proposal (RFP) No.01/2026 dt.25.02.2026, the following addendum is hereby issued.

SL. No.	Reference	Description	Date
1	Bid Submission Dateline	Last Date & Time for Submission of Bids	The last date and time for submission of RFP proposals is hereby extended. The revise dateline for submission of Bids: 30.03.2026, 03:00 PM

Sd/-
Special Secretary to Government
OIPR-11001/11001/1/25-26/0019

11001/60/2526

Government of Odisha
Higher Education Department
NOTICE REGARDING EXTENSION OF THE LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR THE POSITION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF ODISHA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL (OSHEC), BHUBANESWAR

In continuation to the Advertisement dated 25.02.2026 of Higher Education Department, Government of Odisha, it is hereby notified that the last date for submission of online applications for the position of Vice-Chairperson, Odisha State Higher Education Council (OSHEC), Bhubaneswar through the HIMS portal (**https://hims.odisha.gov.in/public/vchp-reg-form**) has been extended till **31.03.2026 (23:59 hours)**.

The last date for submission of hard copy of the completed application form along with the supporting documents through **Speed Post** is **05.04.2026.**

All other terms and conditions of the original advertisement shall remain unchanged.

Detailed eligibility criteria, application format and other instructions are available on the official website of the Higher Education Department (**dhe.odisha.gov.in**) and the **HIMS portal (https://hims.odisha.gov.in).**

Sd/-
Additional Secretary to the Government
OIPR-11001/11001/1/25-26/0018

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our client intends to purchase the properties described in Item Nos. 1 & 2 of the Schedule hereunder ("Schedule Property") from Shri. V. S. Aravindan, son of Shri. V. R. Singarachari, based on the representation that the aforesaid person is the sole and absolute owner of the constituent parcels of the Schedule Property with uninhibited rights of alienation over the same.

Any person claiming to have any manner of right, title, claim or interest in the Schedule Property or any portion thereof is hereby called upon to notify the undersigned with supporting documents thereof within Fourteen (14) days from the date of this notice, after which period, our client shall proceed with the purchase thereof on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property or any part thereof nor any objections for sale thereof by the said person to our client.

SCHEDULE
(Description of the Schedule Property)

All that piece and parcel of immovable properties being agricultural lands specified in the table below, totally measuring 1 Acre, situated in Doddacheemanahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District:

No.	Survey Number	Extent	Boundaries			
			East	West	North	South
01.	133/1	20 Guntas	Land comprised in Survey No. 153/2	Land comprised in Survey No. 104	Land bearing Survey No. 133/2	Land described in Item No. 2 hereunder
02.	133/3	20 Guntas	Land comprised in Survey No. 153/2	Land comprised in Survey No. 104	Land described in Item No. 1 herein above	Land comprised in Survey No. 104

Sd/- A. Supreeth, Partner, **CrestLaw Partners,** Advocates
No. 33, Xavier Layout, 1st Cross, Victoria Road, Bengaluru – 560 047
Ph :080-41473535 / 41473536

Place : Bengaluru
Date: March 19th, 2026

SNAP SHOTS

Babar, Fakhar suspected to be unfit during WC

The medical panel of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) suspects that senior players, Babar Azam and Fakhar Zaman, might not have been 100 percent fit when they were picked in the T20 World Cup squad. The same concerns were raised by senior selector, Aaqib Javed, at a media conference last week and he said the board would investigate the matter.

Khushi takes one-shot lead: Khushi Khanijau got off to a great start with the first day's best card in the sixth leg of the Women's Pro Golf Tour in Noida on Wednesday. Khushi shot 3-under 68 and led the field by one shot. Khushi was one shot ahead of Shweta Mansingh and promising amateur Guntas K Sandhu, who carded 2-under 69 each.

Advani, Kothari prevail: Defending champion Pankaj Advani and India No. 6 Sourav Kothari won their respective round of 32 matches in the CCI Snooker Classic in Mumbai on Wednesday. Advani overcame Robin D'Souza 4-0 (58-55, 73-7, 92-33, 64-52). Kothari beat Pune's Suraj Rathi 4-0 (93-28, 70-0, 123-7, 72-37) and make it to the round of 16. Aditya Mehta dropped a frame against Manav Panchal before winning 4-1 (94-6, 79-37, 37-69, 72-7, 119-20).

Naveen-Musa duo secures WRC3 podium: Hyderabad-based rally driver Naveen Puligilla, along with seasoned co-driver Musa Sherif secured a podium finish in the WRC3 category at the Safari Rally Kenya 2026, the third round of the FIA World Rally Championship in Naivasha. The duo finished third in WRC3 class, and second in the African ARC3 class. They clocked a total time of 5 hours, 22 minutes, 17.9 seconds to be placed 24th overall.

WADA delays decision: The World Anti-Doping Agency put off a decision about barring government officials from major sporting events if their countries voluntarily withhold dues, pushing a potential conflict with President Donald Trump and other US officials until at least after this summer's World Cup. The WADA executive committee met and said it would consider the new rule in Sept, two months after the end of the World Cup.

Billiards & snooker tourney: The BC Ananthasayanam Memorial Handicap inter-club billiards and snooker Tournament will be held at the Karnataka State Billiards Association (KSBA) from March 29 to April 11. Association and clubs affiliated to KSBA are eligible to participate. The last date for entries is March 26.The tournament will be held in the following formats, including, 15Red Snooker (Single frame), Billiards (100up), 6red Snooker (2 frames - different players but cumulative scores of both frames), teams (five players in a team and four to play). Only 32 teams can participate.

Senegal stripped of Africa title in 'extra time'

In Bizarre Move, CAF Awards Morocco Cup Of Nations Title For Lions' Walkout In Final

Dakar: Senegal aren't giving up their Africa Cup of Nations title without a legal fight, with the country's football federation saying it will appeal the "unfair, unprecedented, and unacceptable decision" to strip the team of their victory in a chaotic final against hosts Morocco.

The country's government went further as it said it will "pursue all appropriate legal avenues" to overturn the decision and called for an international investigation "into suspected corruption" within African football's governing body.

The Confederation of African Football's appeals board on Tuesday ruled Senegal forfeited the final in Jan by walking off the field and turned their 1-0 win in extra time into a 3-0 default win for Morocco. "This unprecedented decision directly contradicts the fundamental principles of sporting ethics, foremost among which are fairness, loyalty, and respect for the truth of the game," the Senegalese government said in a statement.

Appeal to CAS

The Senegalese Football Federation (FSF) said the decision "discredits African football," and that it will appeal "as soon as possible" to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland, a process that would typically take a year to deliver a verdict.

Calls for restraint

Morocco's embassy in Dakar called on Moroccans in Senegal to "demonstrate restraint, vigilance, and a sense of responsibility." "It is important to recall that, in all circumstances, it is only a match, the outcome of which should never justify any form of escalation or excessive remarks between brotherly peoples," the embassy said. Streets in the capital were mostly calm, also because of Ramadan. AP

IN A NUTSHELL

- **Final Chaos:** The Jan 18 final in Rabat was disrupted when Senegal players left the field for 10 minutes to protest a ruled-out goal and a penalty awarded to Morocco
- **On-Field Result:** Senegal ultimately won the match in extra time after Edouard Mendy saved a penalty from Morocco's Díaz and Pape Gueye scored the winning goal.
- **Conflicting Regulations:** CAF rules stipulate a 3-0 loss for teams that refuse to play, but IFAB Law 5 grants referees "full authority" over match facts and results.

- **Reduced sanctions for Morocco:** Both federations were initially fined over $1 million, and Senegal coach Pape Thiaw received a five-game ban. CAF recently lowered penalties for Morocco, reducing Ismael Saibari's ban and scrapping his fine. Fines related to ball boy conduct were cut from $200,000 to $50,000.

SIMILAR STORY IN INDIA

- CAF's decision to declare Morocco as AFCON champions is similar to what happened in India last season.
- Churchill Bros had finished on top of the I-League but were only declared "provisional winners" since two cases were pending with the AIFF appeals committee. Once the decision went in their favour, the Goan club was officially declared champions.
- Three months later, the AIFF stripped Churchill Brothers and named Inter Kashi FC as the new champions.
- It followed orders from the CAS after the Switzerland-based tribunal set aside two AIFF appeals committee decisions.

VINICIUS RUBS IT IN

"The last time we came here, the Man City fans (who put up a banner that read 'Stop crying' after Rodri won the 2024 Ballon d'Or ahead of the Brazilian) were making fun of me. I wasn't disrespecting City fans but it was a way for me to prove myself to them." —Vinicius

AP

Striker Nets Double As Real Oust Man City

Manchester: Real Madrid's Vinicius Jr scored twice as the Spanish side eased into the Champions League quarterfinals on Tuesday, beating 10-man Manchester City 2-1 in an entertaining match at the Etihad Stadium to complete a 5-1 aggregate victory. It is the third successive season in which Real Madrid have eliminated City from the Champions League.

Vinicius put the visitors ahead from the penalty spot in the 22nd minute after the VAR judged Bernardo Silva to have handled his shot on the line, a decision that also reduced City to 10 men and made an already daunting task seemingly impossible. Vinicius, who had just clattered a shot off the post before Silva's handball, rubbed salt in the wound with a crying gesture to City's fans.

Pep Guardiola's men were not waving the white flag however and Erling Haaland levelled in the 41st minute with his first goal since February 11.

City's Doku and Rayan Ait-Nouri and Real's Federico Valverde and Vinicius had second-half goals chalked off before Vinicius completed his brace with the last kick of the game from the edge of the six-yard box in the 93rd minute.

Asked about beating Pep Guardiola, Real coach Alvaro Arbeloa deflected praise to his players. "I wouldn't dare to say I can beat Pep Guardiola in terms of a tactical way. He's won thousands of trophies in his career, and what we've won is a tie," he said.

PSG, Arsenal march into last 8

Paris: Paris Saint-Germain and Arsenal also surged into the quarterfinals. PSG crushed Chelsea 3-0 in London to claim a comprehensive 8-2 aggregate victory in their last-16 tie. Arsenal's dream of a quadruple remains alive after they beat Bayer Leverkusen 2-0 at the Emirates for a 3-1 aggregate success. Arsenal will play Sporting in the quarterfinals. AGENCIES

COMEBACK STORIES (2 LEGS)

Sporting ended Bodo/Glimt's fantastic run with a 5-0 reverse to win 5-3 on aggregate. Home teams in the second leg have mounted comebacks only once from four goals adrift and four times with a three-goal deficit.

Four-goal deficit

Paris 4-0 Barcelona
Barcelona 6-1 Paris
2016/17 round of 16

Three-goal deficit

Bodo/Glimt 3-0 Sporting CP
Sporting CP 5-0 Bodo/Glimt (aet)
2025/26 round of 16

Barcelona 3-0 Liverpool
Liverpool 4-0 Barcelona
2018/19 semifinals

Barcelona 4-1 Roma
Roma 3-0 Barcelona
2017/18 quarterfinals

AC Milan 4-1 Deportivo La Coruña
Deportivo La Coruna 4-0 AC Milan
2003/04 quarterfinals

Women face China in opener

Arnab.Seal@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: The Indian men's hockey team will kick off their World Cup on Aug 15, against Wales before taking on England two days later on Aug 17. They play their final Group D game against Pakistan on Aug 19, according to the schedule that was published by the FIH on Wednesday.

HOCKEY WORLD CUPS

Pakistan have qualified for the World Cup after missing out in 2023 and a clash between the two subcontinental rivals is always a potential humdinger. The two teams have faced off in the World Cup five times and India have won three times including the famous 2-1 win in the 1975 final.

Speaking about the grouping and specifically the Pak match, India coach Craig Fulton said, "We are happy with our draw in Pool D. The match against Pakistan will undoubtedly be one of the most anticipated fixtures of the tournament."

The women's team will open their campaign against China on Aug 16. They will then take on South Africa on Aug 18 before their last group game against England two days later on Aug 20.

India's WC Group matches: Men: vs Wales Aug 15, vs England Aug 17, vs Pakistan Aug 19; Women: vs China Aug 16, vs South Africa Aug 18, vs England Aug 20

Never too young!

Daniyal.Abdulla
@timesofindia.com

Age is just a number. This is no longer only a rallying cry from experienced sporting heroes. Young guns are now stepping up across disciplines, proving it with remarkable confidence.

Their rise hasn't happened overnight. While the years of hard work may be few, it is discipline and access to better training environments, that is showing early. With data analysis, recovery methods, and sports science playing a larger role than ever before, young athletes are arriving better prepared for elite competition.

Take the case of Andrea Kimi Antonelli. At just 19, the Italian racing talent produced a stunning drive for Mercedes to win the Chinese Grand Prix. In doing so, he became the second-youngest winner in Formula 1 racing history, behind Max Verstappen, and the first Italian to achieve the feat in two decades. What stood out most was his composure under pressure, something rarely seen in young drivers.

Football is constantly getting younger. Arsenal's British prodigy Max Dowman, only 16, made headlines on Sunday, when he became the youngest goalscorer in Premier League history during a 2-0 win over Everton. It was the same day when Antonelli became the youngest to grab pole position at an F1 GP.

The EPL record had stood for years. It was previously held by James Vaughan in 2005. Dowman's moment felt significant not just for the number, but for the confidence it reflected.

Closer to home, Indian cricket has unearthed a prodigy in Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. The 14-year-old from Bihar has already shown signs of something special.

What links these young athletes is their mindset. They play with clarity and belief, ready to take opportunities as they come.

The next generation isn't waiting in the wings. It has already arrived.

TEEN TITANS

Kimi Antonelli (19): Racing for Mercedes, he became the 2nd youngest F1 race winner at Chinese GP

Max Dowman (16): Arsenal's Dowman became the youngest Premier League goalscorer, beating a 21-year-old record.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (14): 175 in U-19 World Cup final vs Eng (led India to 6th title); His 101 (38 balls) for RR made him the youngest IPL centurion.

'My whole world went still suddenly'

▶Continued From Page 1

Lokesh's sister S Monica, also a national-level athlete in women's 400m hurdles, told TOI, "Lenin got medical help, but it took him almost a year to get back to training after our mother passed away."

"It was not easy when I heard that my mom was no more," Lokesh told TOI from Texas. "My whole world went still suddenly and then it began to hit me that she is no more. I was blank mentally and couldn't talk to people. Then I started telling myself, I know that she is not there, but what can I do to make her happy? I want to do things to fulfil her dreams and keep her happy wherever she is."

BIG LEAP

"She is always with me, guiding me and taking care of me. So I now know that she has physically left me, but she is always with me spiritually," added Lokesh, who joined the elite list of Indians comprising Mohinder Singh Gill (triple jump), Vikas Gowda (discus throw) and Tejaswin Shankar (high jump), who have won the NCAA title before.

PILLARS OF SUPPORT: (from left) S Monica, Felcy Mary, L Sathyanathan, L Vasagi (standing) with Lokesh

AUNT WITH A GOLDEN HEART

Monica said it was the sacrifices made by their father L Sathyanathan, mother Felcy Mary and aunt L Vasagi that helped Lokesh's career to take fresh wings in the US. "Dad worked as a taxi driver and he spent half his life trying to help us become top athletes. He used to take us to the stadium at 5.30 am and wait for us at the stadium and bring us back home," Monica said.

When there was a chance for Lokesh to move to the US and continue his training and studies in 2022, it was Vasagi, who took the lead in selling their jewellery. "Our aunt (Vasagi) is the pillar of our family. She sold her gold to raise funds. We also sold our car — a used Innova — and got about Rs 1.5 lakh. We raised about Rs 10 lakh by selling the gold and the car to fund his trip," Monica added.

"I started my sports career playing football and then shifted to track and field when I was nine years old. I was a pretty fast kid on the field and that's when my dad said you shouldn't be here and he took me to Kanteerava," Lokesh said recalling his early days.

Lokesh, who studied at Bala Yesu Vidyalaya and Sacred Heart HS, added: "It was my aunt who raised my dad, and then she raised me and my sister too. My aunt and uncle were a big support system for us. When I moved to the US, I had the best facilities and coaches, coming under coach (Bobby) Carter was the turning point in my career."

Lokesh is now setting his sights on excelling at major events like the Asian Games. "I want to come to India and compete in the major national championships, which are the qualification meets for the Asian Games," he said.

Selva finds his groove in the USA

M.Sudharshan
@timesofindia.com

Chennai: From the high of a World Athletics U-20 Championships silver medal in 2022 to the frustration of injury setbacks, triple jumper **Selva Prabhu**'s journey has been anything but smooth. After multiple obstacles, the 21-year-old clinched silver with a national record of 17.05m at the NCAA Indoor Championships in Fayetteville, North Carolina, last week.

Selva, a student at the Kansas State University, took the collegiate route in Feb last year and in his one-year stay so far in the USA, he has been injury free. The athlete from Madurai finished fifth at the NCAA Outdoors last year, and he believes that breaching the 17m mark in the Indoors is just the start of what is in store for the season. Selva consistently hit the 16.50m-mark in the three competitions prior to the NCAA Indoors.

ATHLETICS

"My main focus this year is on the Commonwealth and Asian Games. I wanted to be fit for the NCAA Indoors and cross the 17m mark, which I managed to do. The off-season went really well, as we focused extensively on running (hill training). The volume of running I did was quite high, and compared to my training in India, where I focused mainly on jumps, this was a big change. I had some issues with my run-up earlier, but we have now worked on it," Selva told TOI from the USA.

"During my initial competitions in the NCAA, I was nervous and had a lot of pressure as the athletes I was competing against were top-class. Now, I have learned how to handle pressure and in the final (NCAA Indoors), it did not affect me because I have the experience of competing in several events. I get to learn from top-level players and observe them closely," Selva added.

What has changed for Selva after moving to the USA is that he has remained injury-free. In India, he could only compete at 80 to 90% fitness (from 2023 to 2025) and was unable to put in his full effort. "I knew that I could perform but the injuries kept troubling me. That was one of the reasons why I moved to the USA as they take good care of athletes and have a good programme. Now that I have broken the school record in the NCAA Indoors, I will get more attention. Also, the training method in India did not suit me."

To secure a place in the CWG, Selva must compete in the Federation Cup in May. He is expected to travel to India next month for a couple of events along with the CWG qualifiers. However, with an important outdoor meet in the USA scheduled around the same time, Selva plans to sit down with his coach and map out the best course of action.

Sabalenka unsure of Dubai C'ship

World number one Aryna Sabalenka said she is unsure about her return to the Dubai Championships after its tournament director criticised her withdrawal this year, labelling the demand for tougher penalties on late pullouts a "ridiculous" id-ea. Sabalenka and Iga Swiatek were among several players ruled out due to injury, illness or scheduling changes, leaving lucky losers to fill the depleted main draw in Dubai.

TENNIS

At the time, Dubai tournament director Salah Tahlak told The National that Sabalenka and Swiatek pulling out had been an "unfortunate surprise" for the organisers and sought strict action for late withdrawals with ranking points being docked.

"I think it's ridiculous," Belarusian Sabalenka told reporters at the Miami Open on Tuesday. REUTERS

Anmol, Tanvi in prequarters

Orleans (France): India's Kidambi Srikanth crashed out in the first round of the men's singles event while Anmol Kharb and Tanvi Sharma entered the round of 16 in women's singles event of the Orleans Masters Super Badminton tournament, here on Wednesday.

Srikanth, a former world No.1, lost 12-21, 10-21 against Magnus Johannesen of Den-

BADMINTON

mark whereas Kharb recorded a compelling 21-12, 21-16 victory against Turkey's Neslihan Arin. Tanvi also progressed to the next round after defeating Supanida Katethong of Thailand after the latter conceded the match 21-18, 14-12 due to an injury. Elsewhere, Rakshitha Ramraj lost 9-21, 15-21 in the first round against Manami Suizu of Japan. PTI

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Can't be playing sport all your life: Sindhu

Gurugram: Two-time Olympic medal-winning Indian badminton ace PV Sindhu on Wednesday stressed on the need for aspiring athletes to have good education, warning that it is too "risky" to ignore academics and focus solely on a sporting career that can end with a single injury.

The Hyderabadi touched upon several aspects of her own journey to drive home the point, including the self-doubt that she battled before the 2016 Olympics after being laid low by a stress fracture of the left foot.

IN FOCUS

"I have been playing for so many years. At some point of time you have to retire, right? And that's the truth. You can't be playing sport when you're 45 or 50 or 60 at the highest level.

"And you have to accept that fact, whereas education will always be lifelong with you, and that will always stay with you," she said, echoing a sentiment expressed by national coach Pullela Gopichand, who has

ANI

urged parents of aspiring athletes to prioritise education.

"Nobody is born with a golden spoon and you have to work hard, whether it is in studies or sports. Studies and sports are equally important. I have done my MBA. So, I know, it's not easy.. you go to training in the morning, come back, study, and then you go for evening sessions. "Because at the end of the day, that is the truth, where sports is a very small thing, right? Life-long, you know, you will always have an education by your side. Sport is also important, but not that, you know, completely stop your studies," Sindhu asserted. PTI

Indian teams handed tough draw

New Delhi: The Indian men's and women's teams found themselves in tough draws for the Thomas and Uber Cups respectively after being clubbed with defending champions China, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) announced on Wednesday.

The 34th edition of the Thomas Cup and 31st Uber Cup are slated to be held at Horsens, Denmark from April 24-May 3. The Indian men's team, who had made history winning its first-ever tie in 2022, have been placed in Group A alongside China, Canada and Australia. India had lost to eventual winners China in the quarterfinals of the last edition in 2024.

THOMAS & UBER CUP

In the Uber Cup, the Indian women's team also find itself in Group A with reigning and 16-time champions China. Hosts Denmark and Ukraine complete the group. India had bowed out in the quarterfinals in the previous edition, losing to Japan. China boast of a formidable men's line-up with Shi Yu Qi (world No. 2) and Li Shi Feng (7), besides Weng Hong Yang (17) and Lu Guang Zu (18).

Reuters

KEY PLAYER: Lakshya Sen

India however, will draw confidence from Lakshya Sen's recent form as the Paris 2024 semifinalist stunned Feng en route to a runner-up finish at the All-England Championships earlier this month.

India qualified for the 2026 Thomas Cup through their position in the BWF men's team rankings following the Badminton Asia Team Championships.

Thomas Cup: Group A: China, India, Canada, Australia; **Group B:** Japan, Malaysia, England, Finland; **Group C:** Chinese Taipei, Denmark, Korea, Sweden; **Group D:** Indonesia, France, Thailand, Algeria.
Uber Cup: Group A: China, India, Denmark, Ukraine; **Group B:** Japan, Malaysia, Turkey, South Africa; **Group C:** Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, Canada, Australia; **Group D:** Korea, Thailand, Bulgaria, Spain.

The women's team also secured their Uber Cup berth via the world rankings. A total of 16 teams -- divided into four groups of four -- will play round robin league with each tie consisting of five matches (three singles and two doubles). The top two teams from each group will make the quarterfinals. PTI

CM's Cup from Mar 22

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A total of 16 teams representing assembly constituencies will compete in the second edition of the Chief Minister's Cup, scheduled from March 22 to April 12 at the Bangalore Football Stadium here. The three-week competition will begin with a clash between CV Raman Nagar and Shivaji Nagar, while Shanti Nagar will take on RR Nagar in the second match of the day. The teams have been divided into four groups, and 24 matches will be played in the group stage. The top two from each group will advance to the quarterfinals.

"The purpose of the Chief Minister's Cup is to spread football across the different constituencies of Bengaluru and take the game further across Karnataka," **NA Haris**, president, Karnataka State Football Association (KSFA), said.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

"The KSFA is the home of football in the state, and initiatives like this help us reach more communities and promote the sport across Karnataka. It will also help us spot new talent from across the state, which will strengthen our state team and make it more competitive and robust across India," he added. The winners will be richer by Rs two lakh, while the runners-up will take home Rs one lakh. The semifinal losers will win Rs 25,000 each, the KSFA said. **The teams:** CV Raman Nagar, Shivaji Nagar, Shanthi Nagar, Malleshwaram, BTM Layout, Hebbal, Gandhinagar, Yeshwantpur, Rajaji Nagar, Yelahanka, Jayanagar, Krishna Rajapuram, Byatarayanapura, RR Nagar, Sarvagnanagar and Pulikeshinagar.

TIMES SPORT

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

AUSTRALIA CAPTAIN SOPHIE MOLINEUX FIT FOR WEST INDIES TOUR AHEAD OF WOMEN'S T20 WC

SABALENKA UNSURE OF DUBAI TOURNAMENT RETURN AFTER CRITICISM OVER WITHDRAWAL

Royal Challengers Bengaluru Return Home For IPL-19

KOHLI SETS THE TONE

Manuja Veerappa
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Nine months after a homecoming that ended in tragedy, Royal Challengers Bengaluru returned to the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday, beginning preparations for the Indian Premier League, which begins here on March 28.

A small but vocal group of fans gathered outside the stadium to welcome the players as the RCB contingent arrived around 4.30 pm. The session lasted two hours before rain forced an early wrap at 6.30 pm.

The spotlight, unsurprisingly, was on Virat Kohli. The former captain looked in rhythm right away as the session opened with a team huddle, where Kohli and head coach Andy Flower addressed a partially assembled squad.

Virat Kohli

GEARING UP: Royal Challengers Bengaluru began training for the IPL at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday

Pics: Syed Asif

Devdutt Padikkal

T20 BASH

Skipper Rajat Patidar was the most notable absentee and is expected to join on Thursday. Batting coach Dinesh Karthik was also missing, while left-arm pacer Yash Dayal, retained for Rs 5 crore and facing criminal charges, was also absent. Among overseas recruits, only England wicketkeeper-batter Jordan Cox has arrived so far.

However, TOI has learnt that the director of cricket Mo Bobat and the logistics team have mapped out travel plans for the overseas players well in advance, ensuring minimal disruption despite the ongoing unrest in West Asia.

Amid the noise of construction work inside the stadium, Kohli's bat provided the loudest sound. His trademark lofted strokes repeatedly cleared the midwicket boundary, landing deep into the stands.

Kohli trained alongside Karnataka skipper and southpaw Devdutt Padikkal, with the duo taking turns against a mix of pace and spin. Padikkal is fresh off a good domestic season, which included a Ranji Trophy run, that ended in the final.

In an interesting move, RCB did away with net bowlers for the session, relying instead on their own bowling unit and sidearm specialists.

The 37-year-old appeared particularly assured against spin, stepping out confidently against the Krunal Pandya-led spin attack. He showed similar intent against Bhuvneshwar Kumar and new recruit Venkatesh Iyer, maintaining intensity throughout.

RCB, who returned to the Bengaluru venue after much dilly-dally, will open their campaign against fellow southerners Sunrisers Hyderabad on March 28. They will play four more home games at the venue and play two fixtures in Raipur.

UNBOX EVENT SCRAPPED

The franchise's popular 'Unbox' event — a fan engagement initiative that has drawn large crowds in recent seasons — will not be held this year.

While there hasn't been an official announcement, it appears the tight schedule and the planned mock drills at the stadium on March 23 and 26 led to the decision.

Ishan to lead SRH in first few matches

Shiva.Gundra
@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: Ishan Kishan will lead Sunrisers Hyd. erabad in the initial part of the Indian Premier League (IPL) as their regular skipper Pat Cummins will miss a few matches due to injury.

Ishan, who scored a century on his SRH debut last season, will have his opening partner, Abhishek Sharma, as his deputy. Both Kishan and Abhishek were part of the Indian team that defended their T20 World Cup title recently. The duo is likely to join the team in the next few days.

Cummins, who missed the T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka, is yet to recover from the injury. "Pat Cummins will miss a few games while recovering from injury. Until he recovers, Ishan Kishan will be the captain and Abhishek Sharma will be the vice-captain," Sunrisers announced on the social media platform on Wednesday.

Pant's time to script another comeback

Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

Rishabh Pant is in his 10th year of international cricket. He has been consistently inspiring raging debates in these nine years. The eyeballs yearn for him even if he is not part of an Indian team. Last week, when videos of Pant practicing in Mumbai and Chennai surfaced, he hogged the feed on social media barely days after India became the first team to defend the T20 World Cup title.

This could be a defining year for Pant, starting with the IPL. He hasn't been a definite part of India's white-ball team after winning the T20 World Cup in June 2024. In fact, he played just two T20Is and one ODI after Gautam Gambhir took charge as head coach of the Indian team. He has remained the backup wicketkeeper in the ODI setup. As India start preparing for the 2027 ODI World Cup in South Africa, a good IPL could keep him ahead of the likes of Ishan Kishan and Sanju Samson.

Since recovering from the side strain he suffered in the second week of Jan, he has been travelling across the country to find the best quality practice sessions.

Pant's preparations are beyond just fighting to win his place in India's white-ball XI back or justifying the tag of being IPL's most expensive player. That he spent four intense days with Yuvraj Singh in Mumbai may seem like he is just following the footsteps of Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson. Unlike Samson, who went to resurrect his technique ahead of the T20 World Cup, Pant approached Yuvraj to clear the cobwebs in his mind.

Pant and Yuvraj have shared a strong bond for a number of years. But the bond runs deeper since Pant survived a horrific car accident in Dec in 2022. Both have touched death and come back to take the field for India when few gave them a chance to even lead a normal life. They share a common outlook on life. For Pant, spending time with Yuvraj was more about reassuring himself about his approach than just working on the technical aspects of the game.

'Soorya knows only batting'

Diptayan.Hazra
@timesofindia.com

Chennai: Rajasthan Royals have banked on young talent for success — Vaibhav Sooryavanshi being on top of the list. And one of the back-room boys, who has helped the franchise shape its youth structure is performance coach Siddhartha Lahiri, who oversees the RR academies across the globe as well.

Reflecting on Sooryavanshi's rapid rise, Lahiri told TOI: "He's got immense calibre for sure, he's a freak, a 14-year-old with that level of potential. He's in that phase of his life where he loves to breathe cricket and he loves to bat. From a cricketing perspective, we can only hope he goes on to do things that feel unreal to watch."

He further highlighted the role of the Royals' scouting. "I'm very proud of what our analysts have done in finding him. Vaibhav is very dedicated and I don't think he understands anything apart from batting," Lahiri added.

'It's okay if Gambhir thought Virat, Rohit & I must move on'

New Delhi: Ravichandran Ashwin, who stunned the cricketing world when he announced his retirement in the middle of India's Test series against Australia in December 2024, has now spoken candidly about the circumstances that led to one of the most unexpected exits in Indian cricket history.

The 39-year-old, who retired as India's second-highest Test wicket-taker with 537 scalps in 106 matches — behind only Anil Kumble's 619 — said the writing was on the wall long before he made it official. "One of my strongest assets, I feel, is my ability to make decisions. Whether it's right or wrong is for people to debate. But at the end of the day, it's my life. I need to do it on my terms.

"The moment, I think, at Perth (first Test), when we had Jaddu (Ravindra Jadeja) and myself as the lead spinners in the side and Washy (Washington Sundar) played that game, and then the next game (in Adelaide) I came in, and then I had to again make way for Jaddu in Brisbane (third Test) was kind of suggestive or indicative to me that my time was up. And I'm not one of those guys who will hang around, you know, wanting to see if I can make a comeback," Ashwin said at a

QUOTE UNQUOTE

conclave. Ashwin ultimately chose to retire after the third Test in Brisbane and flew back to India thereby not being a part of the Indian team for the fourth and fifth Test in Melbourne and Sydney.

When asked to assess head coach Gautam Gambhir, under whose tenure Ashwin found himself on the periphery, the off-spinner responded with characteristic wit and disarming honesty.

"If somebody has to have angst against Gautam, it's me, right?" Ashwin said, before going on to defend the coach's prerogative to make hard calls.

"My dad is a huge well-wisher. He might have some angst on the outside. When I came back from Australia, he said something in the media. I have consistently told him that 'do not speak ill of a player when I am in the house'. We have fought over these things. Gautam, the coach, has a job to do in many ways, and even if he thought that I must move on or Virat must move on or Rohit must move on, it's okay; it's fine because he has a job to do. And at that particular instance, if I felt bitter about it, that's also okay because it's my emotion. But if you detach yourself, it's clear to me that he has a job to do, and maybe I do not have a future in his regime. "I have always wanted to shed ego as the first thing in my life, and I'm still in the process of shedding ego," he said. TNN

Iranian Abbaszadeh applies for Indian wrestling coach's job

Sabi.Hussain
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Iranian Saeid Abbaszadeh has applied for the Indian wrestling coaching job in the Greco-Roman discipline amid the escalating crisis in West Asia. **TOI** has learnt that Abbaszadeh, who had over 15 years of experience mentoring wrestlers in Philippines, Iraq and Thailand, showed interest in coaching India's grapplers as Iran is embroiled in war.

The 42-year-old Iranian's application remains pending before the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for approval after the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) finalised his name. Once the formal contract is signed between Abbaszadeh and SAI, the Iranian will join the national set-up next month.

His proposed salary has been fixed at $3,000 per month (approx Rs 2.5 lakh).

The federation wanted Abbaszadeh to join before the forthcoming Senior Asian championships in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from April 6 to 12, but that was delayed due to administrative reasons. His contract is expected to run until the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028.

Similarly, Bajrang Punia's former coach **Shako Bentinidis (in pic)** has been finalised to guide the men's freestyle wrestlers into the LA Olympics cycle at a monthly pay scale of $3,000 (approx Rs 2.5 lakh). The Georgian played an instrumental role in guiding Bajrang to Asian Games medal in 2018, a third-place finish at the 2019 World Championships and bronze at the Tokyo Games in 2020. Bentinidis had ended his association with Bajrang in 2021.

For the women's wrestlers, the WFI has zeroed in on the American Ian Butler, a two-time World Championships medallist. He is also a Pan American silver medalist and multiple Open Champion across global combat sports platforms. He has worked internationally with Team USA and Team Canada as the head coach.

According to WFI sources, it took a lot of time convincing Butler to take up the women's wrestling reins as the chief foreign coach after he originally quoted an astronomical sum of $25,000 per month as his salary (approx Rs 20.8 lakh). After negotiations, the coach agreed to $8,000 remuneration per month (approx Rs 6.6 lakh).

After a long gap, the federation invited applications from foreign coaches in Sept last year.

Ponting approves Jansen's late entry

New Delhi: Punjab Kings' head coach Ricky Ponting has approved the late arrival of Marco Jansen for the IPL considering that the South African all-rounder was among the last batch of players who departed late from India following the T20 World Cup due to logistical issues. South Africa and West Indies players were stuck in India for more than a week after concluding their World Cup campaigns. Some of them, including West Indies head coach Daren Sammy and Proteas batter David Miller, also vented out their frustration over the delay in their departure from India due to restricted operations of major airports like Dubai and Abu Dhabi amid the West Asia conflict.

Jansen will join the squad on March 26. Ponting and majority of foreign players are set to link up with the team on March 21. Afghanistan all-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai will join the team on March 23 from Kabul. PTI

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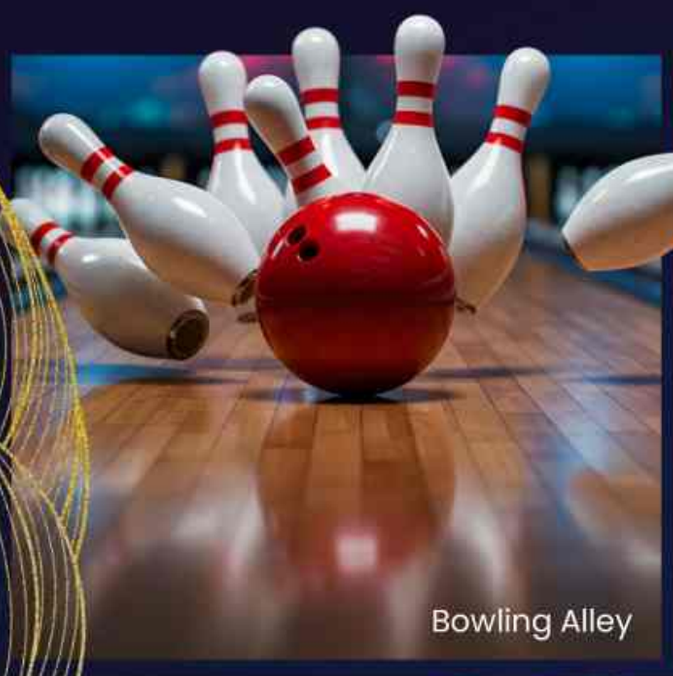

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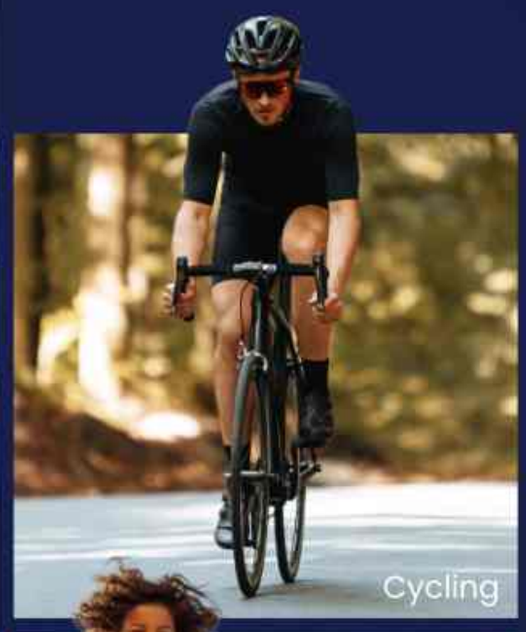

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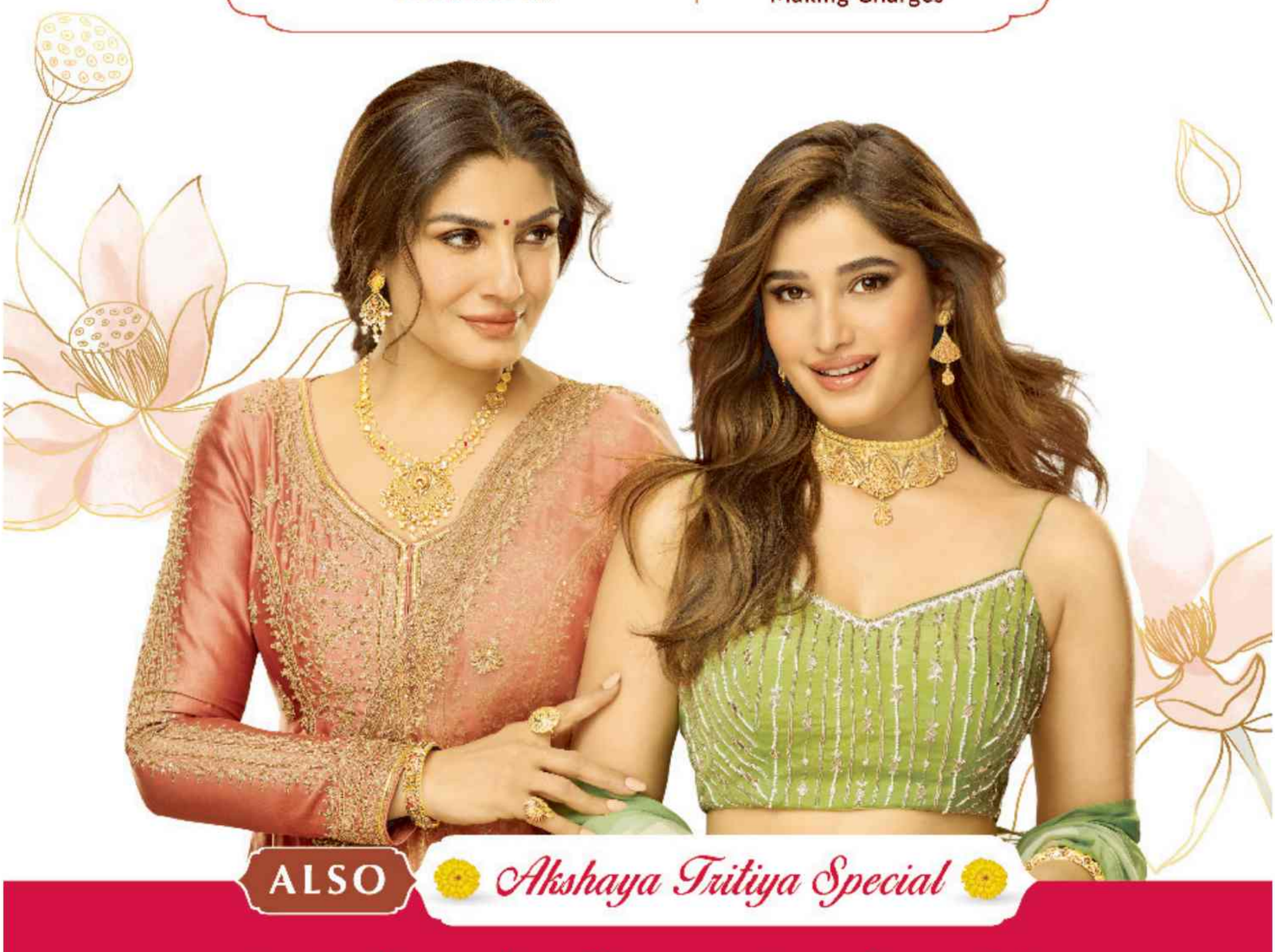

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DKS: CURBS BY CIVIL AVIATION AND DEFENCE ESTABLISHMENTS HAVE SEVERELY IMPACTED HIGH-RISE DEVELOPMENT IN BENGALURU 4

Sleaze videos involving K'taka IPS officer not doctored: Panel

Rajiv.Kalkod
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: The investigation into sleaze videos purportedly involving suspended Karnataka DGP Ramachandra Rao has taken a fresh turn, with a special probe committee ruling out claims that the clips were AI-generated.

These videos are neither deepfakes nor edited versions, the panel said in its report to the state govt. Following this, the department of personnel and administrative reforms issued a notice to Rao Wednesday, paving the way for a departmental inquiry against him.

The videos featured an officer in police uniform engaging in indecent physical acts with two women.

▶Shot in 2016-17, P 5

B'luru cabbie sells car, gold for son's record leap in US

Bags Gold With 8.21m Long Jump, Third Best Ever By An Indian

Biju.BabuCyriac
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: For Lokesh Sathyanathan, it was a giant leap, literally and figuratively. His 8.21m jump, the third-best ever by an Indian, not only set a national indoor record but also earned him NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) gold in Fayetteville, Arkansas, last week.

For his father, Sathyanathan, a taxi driver in Bengaluru, the moment carried even deeper meaning. The family had sold jewellery worth Rs 10 lakh and their car to send their son to the United States, hoping he could pursue his dreams. This victory was not just a medal, it was the most rewarding news they could have hoped for.

Twenty-six-year-old Lokesh's success is a moving story of grit and relentless hard work, one that carried him to the top of the podium while representing Tarleton State University in Texas.

His journey began under the guidance of M Muralidharan, a former Asian silver medallist, who trained him for 12 years at Bengaluru's Sree Kanteerava Stadium without charging a rupee.

Lokesh, fondly called Lenin by his family and friends, fought his way back after a battle with depression following the loss of his mother to Covid-19.

Lokesh makes his winning jump at the National Collegiate Athletic Association event in Fayetteville, Arkansas, last week

▶World went still, P 18

No retest; all-party House panel to probe KPSC lapses

Times News Network

Bengaluru: The state govt Wednesday decided to set up an all-party House committee to probe allegations of irregularities in the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) mains examination and the subsequent selection process, while ruling out a retest.

The move follows concerns raised over results of gazetted probationers (Group A and B) exam, conducted to fill 384 posts in Feb this year. Several aspirants questioned the transparency of the process.

▶From same room, P 2

Prajwal videos: SIT chargesheet names 39

Times News Network

Bengaluru: The SIT probing the circulation of explicit video footage allegedly linked to former MP Prajwal Revanna has filed a chargesheet in a Hassan court, naming 39 accused and detailing what it termed as an organised network behind the dissemination of the clips.

Officials clarified that **Prajwal,** grandson of former PM H D Deve Gowda, was not named as an accused in the chargesheet, limited to circulation of the videos only. There are separate proceedings related to the video content and allegations of sexual abuse against Prajwal.

The chargesheet, running into over 13,700 pages, stems from a complaint filed on April 23, 2024, by Poornachandra Tejaswi M G, an election agent for Prajwal during the LS polls held that year. It alleged that photos and videos carrying morphed images of the JD(S) candidate were circulated through pen drives and WhatsApp messages to influence voters.

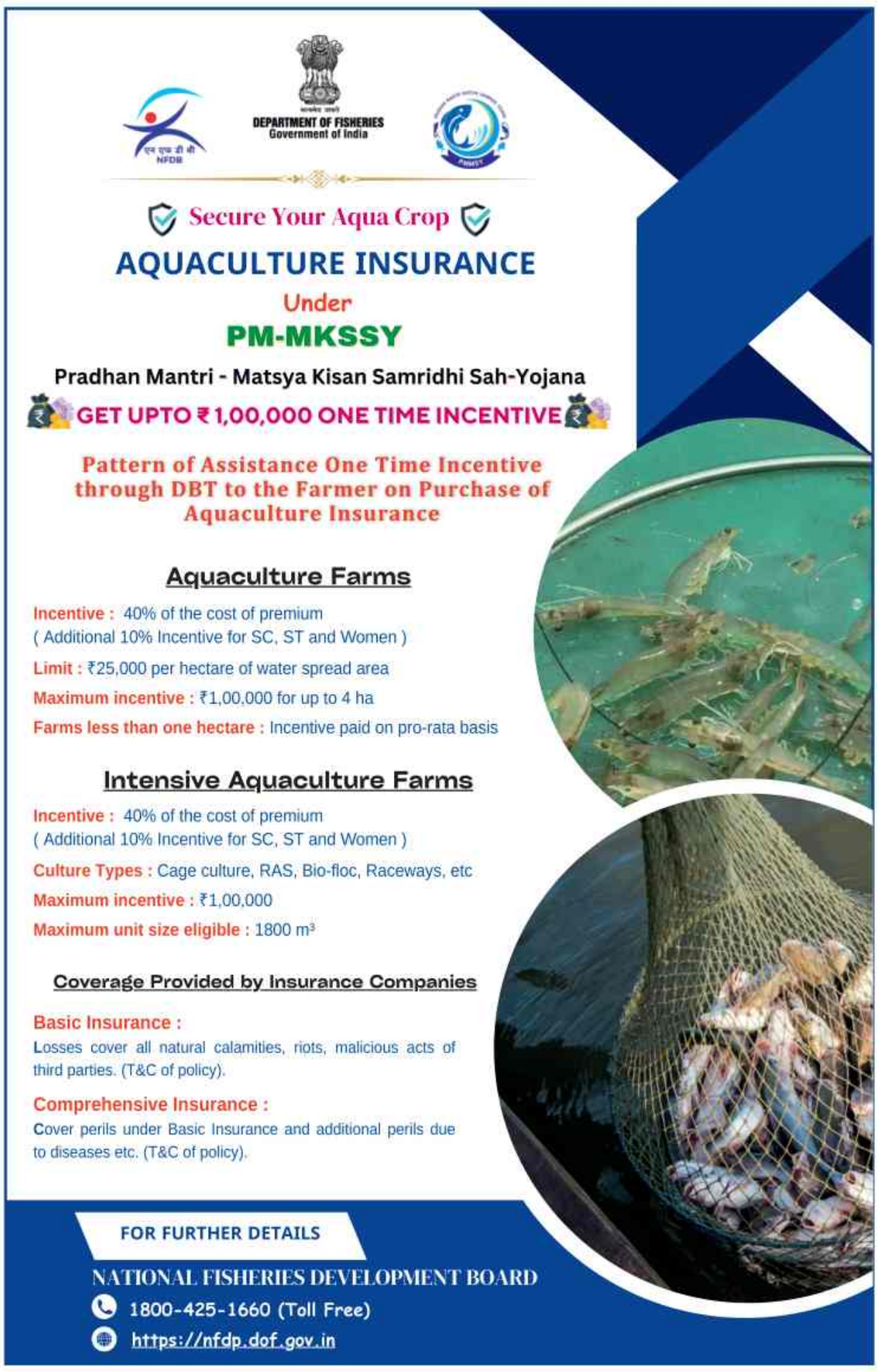
▶Names omitted, P 5

Assam ex-MP cites humiliation, quits Congress, joins BJP

Prabin.Kalita
@timesofindia.com

Guwahati: Former Congress MP Pradyut Bordoloi joined BJP in New Delhi Wednesday, intensifying a wave of defections that has rattled the opposition party in Assam before assembly polls on April 9. Bordoloi, 66, ended a three-decade association with Congress late Tuesday, citing "humiliation" and marginalisation since 2022 after backing Tharoor in the AICC presidential race. He was a cabinet minister when Tarun Gogoi was CM.

▶Full report, P 13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16% to 67% in 14 yrs: Jump in state consumer cases taking over a yr to resolve

Consumer courts were set up to provide a fast and affordable grievance redress mechanism for the common citizen and reduce the burden on the judicial system. However, the Consumer Justice Report finds that pendency has crept up in these courts — where housing and insurance account for the bulk of cases — even though there is wide variation in the disposal rate among states

DISTRICTS HAVE LONGEST WAIT TIMES

Consumer cases are taking longer to conclude across all levels of the redress system. District consumer disputes redressal commissions (DCDRCs) now display the longest wait times followed by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) and state consumer disputes redressal commissions (SCDRCs)

HOW DELAYS INCREASED AT STATE LEVEL

Within SCDRCs, delays have deepened over time and the proportion of cases taking more than a year has steadily increased

35% of cases have been pending for more than three years with SCDRCs, per data from 19 state commissions

ANDHRA BEST PERFORMER, TELANGANA AT THE BOTTOM

According to IRJ's rankings, among the larger states, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan had the best-performing consumer courts with Jharkhand and Telangana at the bottom. Among the smaller states, Meghalaya and Sikkim rank high

Top 3 larger states

Rank	State	Score*
1	Andhra Pradesh	6.28
2	Madhya Pradesh	5.92
3	Rajasthan	5.82

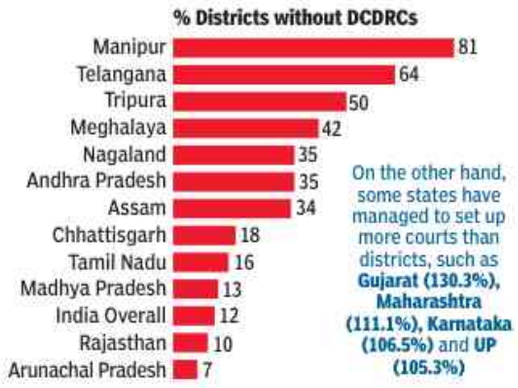
Top 3 smaller states

Rank	State	Score*
1	Meghalaya	5.58
2	Sikkim	4.72
3	Himachal Pradesh	4.2

*Out of 10

N-E LAGS BEHIND

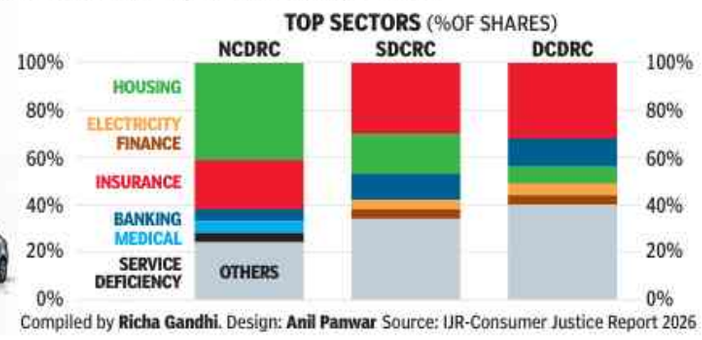
Nearly 90 districts across India lack any forum for redress of consumer complaints. Also, in many cases, where courts do exist, they may not be fully staffed. Across 35 SCDRCs, 17 are currently functioning without a president while about 40% of total sanctioned posts are vacant



On the other hand, some states have managed to set up more courts than districts, such as **Gujarat (130.3%), Maharashtra (111.1%), Karnataka (106.5%)** and **UP (105.3%)**

HOUSING, INSURANCE DOMINATE CASES

Insurance and housing-related matters make up the biggest chunk of cases in consumer courts. At NCDRCs — which deals with complaints where the value of goods/services and compensation claimed exceeds Rs 2 crore — housing disputes take up the largest share. At SCDRCs (dispute value of under Rs 2 crore) disputes and DCDRCs (cases less than Rs 50 lakh), insurance-related complaints are more prominent



Compiled by **Richa Gandhi**. Design: **Anil Panwar** Source: IJR-Consumer Justice Report 2026

2 short workout sessions a week can keep you fit: Study

Global Survey Of 30k Adults Finds Big Gains From Minimal Exercise

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: You don't need a gym, fancy equipment or long hours to stay fit. Just two sessions of basic strength exercises every week can make a real difference to your health, a large global review of studies has found.

The research, published in the the journal of the American College of Sports medicine, looked at data from over 30,000 adults and showed that simple resistance exercises — such as squats, push-ups, lifting household weights or using resistance bands — can improve muscle strength, balance, walking speed and overall fitness.

These are not just fitness gains — they directly affect how easily one can climb stairs, carry groceries, or avoid falls as one ages.

The biggest takeaway is how little effort is needed to start seeing results. Two short sessions a week, working the major muscle groups with moderate effort, are enough — there is no need to push your body to exhaustion or follow complicated routines. What matters more is consistency and gradually increasing the difficulty over time.

"Two days a week is a start, but for real gains in strength and overall health, I advise patients to aim for at least four days. Even simple, no-equipment routines or yoga can be effective — just 20–25 minutes covering major muscle groups like the back, knees and hips is enough to make a difference," said Dr Deepak Joshi, director, Sports Injury Centre, Safdarjung Hospital.

The findings are especially important at a time when many people spend long hours sitting and physical activity is declining.

Weak muscles and poor balance increase the risk of falls, joint problems and loss of independence later in life. In routine practice, many patients who walk regularly still show poor muscle strength, reduced balance and early joint overload, said Dr Naman Wahal, senior consultant orthopaedics, Fortis Escorts, Delhi, noting that walking alone does not address age-related muscle loss and that reduced strength contributes to instability, falls and delayed recovery even among people in their 40s and 50s.

iStock

STRENGTH SHORTCUT: Experts say almost any resistance exercise works, but technique matters

Experts said almost any form of resistance exercise works, but how it is done matters.

Low-grade weight training helps maintain muscle tone and improve bone mass, especially with age, said Prof Mandeep Dhillon, director orthopaedic and sports medicine, Fortis Chandigarh. He cautioned that beginners, particularly older adults, should avoid suddenly attempting exercises like push-ups or squats without prior conditioning and should ideally start under supervision, in structured or group settings, while combining strength work with walking as an aerobic activity.

Despite clear benefits, very few people still include strength training in their routine. The study highlights this gap as a missed public health opportunity, with evidence showing that even 30–60 minutes of muscle-strengthening activity a week can significantly reduce overall mortality risk, with greater gains when combined with aerobic exercise.